

THE
HISTORY
OF
MAJOR BROMLEY
AND
MISS CLIFFEN.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

*Thrice blessed they that master so their blood,
To undergo such maiden pilgrimage!
But earthlier happy is the rose distill'd,
Than that, which, withering on the virgin thorn,
Grows, lives, and dies, in single blessedness.*
Shakespeare.

LONDON.

Printed for J. WILKIE, in St. Paul's Church-
Yard, and T. LOWNDS in Fleetstreet.

MDCCLXVII.

H I S T O R Y
 OF
 MAJOR BROMLEY
 AND
 MISS CLIFTON

VOLUME SECOND



The first of the
 two volumes of this
 edition is the only
 one that is now
 in the collection
 of the British Museum.
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 is now in the
 collection of the
 Bodleian Library.
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LONDON

Printed by W. Smith, at the
 Press of J. W. Smith, in
 the Strand, near the
 Temple Church.
 MDCCCXXV

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THE

THE
HISTORY
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MISS CLIFFEN.

CHAP. I.

Contains a dextrous method of acquiring information. — An embassy of a most extraordinary nature. — With a lively conversation, agreeable to the tenets of men of spirit.

BUT, notwithstanding sir ARTHUR forbore exercising his further ill-nature upon his sister, he made his daughter undergo a severe persecution.

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HE told her it was now become necessary, both for his peace and her reputation, that she should be disposed of. That he should ever have that caterwauling fellow perpetually in his head; and did not doubt but he would creep into her heart: but, to prevent every disagreeable consequence, he was determined to marry her with all expedition.

JACOB had just learned this piece of intelligence by applying his ear to the key-hole, when he was called away to attend miss MARGARET.

THAT good lady, fearing her lover's flame might cool by his late discouragements, and the intimations her brother threw out, took the opportunity of his being engaged with his daughter to dispatch JACOB immediately after them, as a token of her firm attachment, maugre all disasters: so that they were barely seated in their lodgings, whither they repaired to condole each other's misfortune; but they were informed, a fellow in a livery desired admittance.

CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN JAMES suspected it was JACOB, with a message from his fair-one ; therefore made but one bound of it across the room, in order to introduce him to his half desponding brother.

It was, indeed, no other than that trusty squire, more consequential than ever ; as he conceived himself to be charged with a most extraordinary embassy ; he entered with that kind of look that is between a grin and a smile ; and, doffing his hat, said, addressing captain JAMES,

LORD, your honor ! what a mortal *frustration* have you caused at our house.

I HOPE thou hast not been brought into disgrace, my boy, returned captain JAMES?

NOA, noa, your honor, quoth JACOB, with a laugh of self-approbation. I stand as clear as heart can wish. But, advancing a few paces, and pulling captain JAMES by the sleeve, he added, in a half-whisper, I must beg a private *audience*.

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FEAR nothing, said captain JAMES, clapping him upon the shoulder: my brother is a friend to your mistress's and my cause, and will not betray us: JACOB, satisfied with this reply, took his seat, saying; if so be, the *gemman* is my good lady's and your honor's friend, there can be no damage in speaking afore him. You must know, then, added he, with a look of infinite importance; drawing his chair, at the same time, quite close to their's, that my young lady is to be married with all expedition.

THIS was a thunder-stroke to captain HENRY; and he cried out, with visible emotion both of voice and countenance, How, friend! What can you mean?

DEATH! said captain JAMES in a low voice (treading upon his toe, unperceived by JACOB, who was gaping at one of HOGARTH's productions) would you discover yourself to this fellow? Then, turning to JACOB, begged he would explain himself.

JACOB

JACOB replied, with a most meaning shake of the head, to a deadly rich man, and a captain too, I find.

CAPTAIN HENRY, notwithstanding his brother's caution, broke out a second time, Mr. JAMES gave him a rebukive look, and JACOB proceeded.

Now my mistress is *afear'd* she shall not have it in her power to see you so often when young madam is gone; and, therefore, desires you will consult *con-*
sarning future schemes, and let her hear from you, as usual; and, should it not be possible to contrive a meeting sooner, you may come the latter end of next week, with all security, as his worship is then engaged to spend the evening in the city with some country friends.

Thou art a diligent fellow, JACOB, said captain JAMES, and deservest encouragement, putting two pieces into his hand.

JACOB, making an acknowledging bow, pocketed the money with great deliberation; saying, at the same time,

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with an arch simplicity, I *hopes* when my lady is your lady, you will not forget poor JACOB.

No, no, returned captain JAMES, depend upon it, my lad, thy merit shall never be forgotten.

HE then arose, and captain JAMES bidding him tell his mistress, he would obey her commands with the utmost punctuality, saw him to the door with his usual kindness; and, re-entering his brother's apartment with uncommon alacrity, I give you joy, HENRY, said he, of this new opportunity fate seems willing to cast in your way; but, if you do not make proper advantage of it, you are utterly unworthy of the lover's character.

NEVER, sure, said captain HENRY, did brother give such proofs of fraternal regard as you, JAMES! — How indefatigable you have been in my service!

AH, returned captain JAMES, affecting great dissatisfaction, little do you imagine the drudgery I undergo for your sake, whilst you are prattling love to that young tartar, the niece, I would rather

rather command in a storm for a whole successive four and twenty hours, than compell myself to utter such hypocritical nonsense for one five minutes only.

I WILL not reproach you, JAMES, said captain HENRY, smiling, with your own demerits; though, it is certain, you drew this drudgery, as you call it, upon yourself. — I indeed acknowledge your punishment is lengthened beyond your crime; but, depend upon it, what your charity now prompts you to perform for the service of a poor distressed lover, will meet with its reward, either here or hereafter. — You are so wedded to the sea, there is no making you a return in kind.

SUCH kindnesses, replied captain JAMES, shrugging his shoulders contemptuously, I hope I shall ever keep clear of. I would sooner be wrecked on a coast of savages, than shackled to a tiger in petticoats.

How dare you, JAMES, said captain HENRY, speak so profanely of *heaven's last, best gift*? But for a shackled tiger (as you have most unnaturally, though indirectly, styled your own mother) you had
had

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had never existed, nor can you perpetuate your name by any other means.

O SIR, returned captain JAMES, one mastiff in a family is quite sufficient; and, perhaps, my friend, when your neck has been somewhat fretted and galled by the fine collar you are now chaffering for, you may wish you had been a brother cur, to bark and frisk at will.

It is not impossible, JAMES, said captain HENRY, but you may still be brought to repent your idle raillery. The blind deity, when provoked, is full of ire; and who knows with what fatal dexterity he may wing a vengeful dart at your breast; at once to dispel and punish your infidelity.

As soon could the tawney inhabitants of the east, replied captain JAMES, in a pompous accent, exchange complexions with our English beauties, as the land-born passion of love erect its empire in my heart. My heart, inclined from its earliest pulsation to encounter storms and tempests. Bombarding and cannonading were my lisping sounds, and shall I now
begin

and MISS CLIFFEN: 9

begin to deal in the soft languishments and idle parade of fair-weather Jacks, disused to toil and bred in effeminacy.— It is an irreconcilable contradiction.

WHAT fustian! cried captain HENRY, laughing; you would shine upon the stage, JAMES, and in a character suited to the tenets you have now poured forth, could not fail of applause; for no jest is so well received in the present age, as the thread-bare one that reflects upon that happy institution, matrimony. — But, miss CLIFFEN, what will become of her?

OR, rather, said captain JAMES, what will become of HENRY the unfortunate? — We have, indeed wandered most wantonly from that important consideration. — But I will tell you what ought to become of the lady. — You must prevail upon her to fly with you. — Is she not an innamorata? — Can she, therefore, refuse so natural and so rational a request? — It shall be my business to tickle the old lady's ears sufficiently to give you time to concert necessary measures. —
B 5 You

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You seem reduced to your last stake. — Victory or a repulse is all you can expect.

I MUST, JAMES, replied captain HENRY, try the efficacy of an enlivening glass on that occasion; or, such is my respect for, and opinion of, miss CLIFFEN, that I shall be otherwise unequal to so bold a proposition.

WHAT a puppy! cried captain JAMES, viewing him with affected contempt. Respect and opinion; folly and stupidity. I do believe you will respect yourself out of your chance. — You ought to know the sex better. — It is the enterprizing, not the respectful fellow, that wins their hearts. — But, what say you to to a bottle now to dispel our chagrin?

WITH all my heart, said Mr. HENRY, for, you must acknowledge JAMES, our late adventure was a most mortifying one.

A BAGATELLE, a bagatelle, HENRY, returned captain JAMES, which you men of galantry ought not to be disconcerted

certed at. Though I am most certainly convinced, that the devil owed you a grudge: and I am much beholden to his diabolical majesty that he punished you in my person.

WHEN A PARTER had given due vent to his rage and in his turn, he found himself greatly relieved and imagining he should also reward himself accordingly as his brother's share who had been accused but a few days from his employment by making him only acquainted with his friend's conduct determined notwithstanding it was then past nine o'clock to the company to wait upon him immediately.

But the merchant loved him the more for it waiting upon the city by shopping to suit himself to retailers for his great business was come all day great working and dissipation.

But James had been brought to the door end of the row, early that morning, on horse of a man called Peter, which he had equipped with all possible expedition.

CHAP.

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CHAP. II.

Contains a scene the most perverse of any yet exhibited. — Cross purposes and willful contradictions running through the whole.

WHEN sir ARTHUR had given due vent to his rage and ill-nature, he found himself greatly relieved, and imagining he should recommend himself exceedingly to his brother's favor, who had been returned but a few days from his *Bristol* journey, by making him early acquainted with his sister's conduct, determined notwithstanding it was then past nine o'clock in the evening, to wait upon him immediately.

BUT the merchant saved him the trouble of walking into the city, by dropping in at this juncture so seasonable for his niece, whose situation was to the last degree mortifying and dissatisfactory.

MR. JAMES had been brought to the polite end of the town, early that morning, on business of great consequence, which he had dispatched with all possible expedition,

expedition, in order to indulge himself with one hour's conversation with his beloved BETSEY, in his way home,—but how was he disappointed to find her father and her upon such ill terms, as the clouded countenance of the one, and dejection of the other, too plainly discovered they were.

THE baronet was vexed to the soul, at being taken at such a disadvantage, as he had been very desirous of cultivating his brother's friendship and good-liking, ever since his cough, and the opinion of his physicians had given him reason to remember he was mortal.

HE was sensible the circumstances Mr. JAMES had found him and his daughter under, would give rise to suspicions in that gentleman's breast, that were by no means consistent with the reputation he was aiming to establish, he was therefore impatient to publish his sister's folly, and by laying it thick upon her, excuse every unfavorable appearance respecting himself,—for he was at all times so generous—that, provided he could but disencumber his own shoulders of a disagreeable

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able weight, it was indifferent to him whose lot the burthen fell to.

SIR ARTHUR'S anxiety relative to his brother's good opinion, did not however proceed from the narrow principle of brotherly kindness, — he scorned such vulgar sensibility, — but he was fearful lest Mr. JAMES'S regard for his niece should induce him to place the large fortune he was known to intend for her out of his reach.

He therefore smoothed his features into an appearance of discontent rather than rage, telling him he was the man of all others he most wanted to see, as he had something of importance to communicate.

MISS CLIFFEN having paid proper respects to her uncle withdrew, — the merchant sighed, and looked after her in so expressive a manner, that sir ARTHUR'S passions were again in a flame; he, however, though with much difficulty, kept them within tolerable bounds, as he had so happy an occasion of discharging part of his acrimony upon miss MARGARET.

MR.

MR. JAMES who had listened with the utmost attention, to an aggravated account of his sister's conduct, was not once tempted to interrupt him, but finding he had concluded, and was expecting him to comment, he replied with great mildness, — indeed, brother, you have both surprised and mortified me by your relation, I thought my sister had been mistress of more prudence.

YES, yes, retorted sir ARTHUR with a sarcastic air, I very well know the error you persist in, women in your estimation, are reasonable creatures, notwithstanding the chain of contradictory events down from the first female to our sister MARGARET.

I AM even now brother, replied the merchant in the same placid accent, very far from retracting my good opinion of the sex; I remember your wife well, her conduct, conversation, and amiable disposition, sufficiently confute your assertion of the insufficiency and perverseness of the females.

YOUR

YOUR niece too, said sir ARTHUR with a sneer (stung by this affectionate testimony of his wife's merit) is an admirable creature too I suppose.

Her resemblance returned Mr. JAMES, both in person and mind of her worthy mother, to whom I had many obligations, has engaged my best affection.

I WISH, I wish brother, said sir ARTHUR with visible impatience, I could once find her dutiful, and I should be satisfied with the rest.

Is what does she oppose your will, said the merchant, but where you have no right to controul her, she desires only a negative voice, — she does not presume to chuse for herself; than surely you may permit her to make objections where she disapproves.

FINE doctrine indeed, cried sir ARTHUR, unable longer to preserve a false character, — but I can tell you, I shall follow my father's example with respect to HENRY, if she dares to dispute with me a second time.

How

How can you brother, said Mr. JAMES, with mingled pity and indignation, applaud a conduct so fatal to that worthy youth.

Was he not disobedient? demanded sir ARTHUR, his eyes sparkling with rage.

Was heaven, returned the merchant, to punish our offences with the same severity, what wretches should we find ourselves,—poor HENRY, added he sighing, his only crime was love.

Was it so brother, said sir ARTHUR snappishly, but I must beg you will not infuse such notions into your niece's head, I tell you it was perverseness.

GIVE it what name you please, replied Mr. JAMES, it was productive of too fatal a consequence,—was he not cast out an alien from his family, disinherited of his fortune? and it is in all probability owing to his despair that you now enjoy the title he was born to.

HAD he but lived till now, said sir ARTHUR with a malicious smile, I suppose

pose you would have made him amends for all his sufferings.

MOST certainly, returned the merchant in a resolute accent, so far as what I am possessed of could make him amends, I lament that my clerkship was unexpired when he was so disgracefully and inhumanely driven from his father's house, — he should otherwise have had a faithful and affectionate follower of his fortune.

WELL, well brother, said sir ARTHUR peevishly, for he began to be sorry he had thrown off the mask, and given rise to so hateful a subject; I wanted to talk to you about other matters, but let our conversation be what it may, HENRY is ever introduced by you, though to what purpose except to mortify me I never could find out.

FROM the abundance of the heart, brother, we are frequently induced to speak: his memory will indeed be ever dear to me, but this time sir ARTHUR, added Mr. JAMES coldly, you yourself introduced the subject.

UNLUCKILY

UNLUCKILY Mr. PETERSON, the match maker, having settled with sir ARTHUR that afternoon, that the wedding should take place in a short period, had been so very industrious as to seek out the captain, to congratulate him upon, and acquaint him with the near approach of his happiness, and from a most extraordinary point of good breeding, he had now brought him to make his personal acknowledgements, and crack a bottle with him.

SIR ARTHUR had told Mr. PETERSON he should take an early opportunity of acquainting Mr. JAMES with his intentions, so that both the gentlemen naturally enough concluded from finding the brothers in close conference, that their business was no secret, — therefore addressed the baronet in such terms on their entrance, as explained what was upon the carpet, in one instant, to the astonished merchant.

CAPTAIN FARRELL, concluding from the plain though gentleman-like appearance of the man of commerce, that he was a person of no consequence, — made
a most

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a most ridiculous display of the small wit, nature had intrusted him with: overwhelming sir ARTHUR with scraps of ill-applied, and equally ill-pronounced French, in order to give his intended father-in-law a due impresson of his erudition—and set the musty mechanic a staring.

SIR ARTHUR made very concise and confused replies to the profusion of fine things, the captain addressed to him, as he was not a little mortified at his brother's being present at a scene he knew him incapable of approving; which the merchant perceiving he was so malicious as to take a pleasure in tormenting him: for which purpose, after viewing the sop with apparent contempt,

SIR, said he with great solemnity, I must take the liberty of informing you, that my niece's charms (which you have so lavishly extolled for some time) are not confined like the butterfly trappings of a beaux to her outside, she has a mind, sir.

THE captain stared first at Mr. PETERSON, who hung his ears in disconsolation; then at sir ARTHUR, who was muttering

tering a thousand curses through his closed teeth.

BUT raising his voice (though by no means recovering his confusion) he said, yes, captain, as my brother observes, you will not only find my girl a tolerable feast for your eyes, but she will likewise prove no unentertaining companion.

I PROFESS, said the captain, covering his chagrin with an affected laugh, I did not immediately apprehend the gentleman's meaning, but give me leave, sir, drawing the baronet gently aside by a button, I have no consent to ask there, glancing a look at Mr. JAMES, who was twirling a cork with great composure.

By no means, sir, returned sir ARTHUR in a low voice (but an assured air) I have undoubtedly the entire disposal of my child.

NAY, you will pardon me, said the captain, simpering most gracefully, but the gentleman strikes me to be of rough manners, and coarse ideas.

He

HE was the youngest of our family, replied sir ARTHUR, and bred a trader, in which capacity his whole attention and abilities have been directed to one object, —accumulating; accumulating, captain, has been his daily occupation, he has acquired a very plentiful fortune.

THIS stroke succeeded to the baronet's wish, the captain's countenance was instantly changed, and he said in an agreeable accent :

WHICH acquisitions, I presume, sir, will devolve to your lovely daughter (upon sir ARTHUR's giving an nod of assent) he added his little roughness is now accounted for, the rust of commerce will appear, and I excuse it all.

SIR ARTHUR applauding his graciousness he resumed.

BUT perhaps he may take exceptions at our private conference, we will therefore with your leave, render the conversation general, then advancing with more confidence than judgement to the merchant, who was inwardly fretting at the foolish

foolish scene before his eyes, he made him one of his very best congees : telling him that he hoped his addresses to miss CLIFFEN would have the sanction of his approbation:

THE merchant lifting up his head with great deliberation, replied with no very favourable aspect, I will be plain with you, sir, my consent is hinged upon my niece's inclination, you must indeed pardon me, added he, looking scornfully at him ; but, if BETSY should be averse to an union with you, I love her too well to promote her unhappiness.

OH, sir, returned the captain with a careless self-sufficient air (not in the least disconcerted at the merchant's visible disapprobation) we will not doubt the lady's honoring her father's choice, — it would be indirectly imputing a disobedience to her nature, which I dare believe she is utterly incapable of.

You shall have an interview with my daughter, said sir ARTHUR, in order to divert discourse, from so unpleasing a strain whenever it is convenient to you.

I AM

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I AM all impatience to call her mine, returned the captain, consequently shall think every hour an age, until I have the happiness of casting myself at her feet.

You will do well, sir, said Mr. JAMES, still more disgusted by the captain's pertness and insensibility, not to be too sanguine in your expectations, respecting my niece, if you would avoid a disappointment; for, I know not why, but my mind misgives me, added he droling, I fear I shall not have the honor of being allied to you.

NOTHING could be more perverse than the humor of this company; each wishing the other gone, — and each determining not to be the first to move off, when sir ARTHUR perceiving his brother's patience was near exhausted, proposed their all going to the *Queen's Arms* in *St. Paul's* church yard, and spending one hour before they sent the merchant home. But that gentleman would by no means consent to associate with such beings, but said, he would accept of a cast so far on his way to his own house, provided they
promised

promised he should then be at liberty to follow his particular inclinations.

SIR ARTHUR was highly pleased with this concession, as he had apprehended Mr. JAMES would endeavor to see his niece, before his return, to encourage her to be rebellious.

VAIN fop! said the merchant to himself, as they drove along, on observing some fresh instances of the captain's self consequence; and art thou intended for a husband, for that amiable girl?—how I despise the thought. Had poor HENRY but lived to have been a father, perhaps I should not have felt myself so deeply interested upon this occasion as I now am, from this really good creature's not being all my hopes and happiness. The ingenious sir ARTHUR, continued he mentally, looking rather unkindly at him, is ever inventing some new folly to torment his child, and disturb my repose, he has now picked up this fluttering gaudy fellow,—but I will be composed, and do flatter myself, in spite of all his schemes, I shall still live to see her honorably and happily disposed of.

THIS last reflection occurred very opportunely at the parting period, as it occasioned him to return the civilities of his companions with a better grace than he otherwise would have done.

CHAP.

C H A P. III.

Contains an important lesson for young females,—some interesting events,—an unhappy interruption,—great distress—with a smart dialogue between sir ARTHUR and his sister.

MISS spent the succeeding week to the baronet's harsh treatment of her in infinite inquietude. She too well knew his implacable disposition to hope for any change in her favor, for had not sir CHRISTOPHER been living, and her uncle strenuously opposed it, she had been contracted by her father at a very early age, to a man the most despicable upon earth, except in the article of fortune. She was, however, inclined to flatter herself, that as sir ARTHUR could not suspect her of any prepossession; some lucky incidents might, at least, occur to occasion delays,—but what was to become of her at the last extremity, was too terrible to think of.

CAPTAIN HENRY was almost at his wits end, his twelve days respite were

drawing to a period, and he had been able to procure but one happy interview. It is true, that by the assistance of Mrs. DOLLY, he had had the pleasure of writing and receiving two or three letters from his admired lady, but as he had been restrained by the apprehension of offending her from intimating, even in the most distant manner, the means he wished her to pursue, to deliver herself from captivity; the work was as wide as ever from being accomplished; and, to add to his affliction, his brother was obliged to repair to his ship at *Portsmouth* the very ensuing day, to the one appointed for his second visit at *Grosvenor Square*.

EVERY thing was conducted when the happy evening arrived to the satisfaction of all parties, except indeed that captain HENRY's tête à tête (from his impatience to know his fate) appeared to be much longer delayed than usual. Miss MARGARET however with her usual generosity at length left them to themselves, as their presence was an equal interruption to her as her's to them.

WHEN miss CLIFFEN had made captain HENRY acquainted with every disagreeable

agreeable circumstance relative to her situation, she concluded with saying, she was almost inclined to consider the difficulties she was under, as a punishment for consenting to the disingenuous artifice she was practising with respect to her aunt.

BELIEVE me, madam, said captain HENRY, you have very little to answer for upon her account, for we may even thank her extraordinary love of admiration, for suggesting our innocent stratagems.

I AM convinced, said miss CLIFFEN, now, by woeful experience, that young women ought to avoid with the utmost circumspection, every first step towards encouraging a private intimacy with your sex; as a train of disagreeable gradations are the inevitable consequence, every one of which severely reflect upon her delicacy, prudence, and morality.

MR. HENRY's fears of losing miss CLIFFEN were of more efficacy than all his brother's admonitions; and, as he now began to be truly sensible of his desperate

case, he presumed to interrupt her discreet reflections with,

DEAR madam, we have no time for cool recollection, as there are perhaps only a few moments between us and an eternal separation: o do not then misemploy them, but consult some means, if possible, to avert the impending evil.

ALAS! sir, said miss CLIFFEN trembling with apprehension, what can be done?—I know no remedy.

AND can miss CLIFFEN's heart, returned captain HENRY in an affecting accent, be free from every suggestion of deliverance?

UPON my honor, sir, replied the lady emphatically, I am wholly at a loss; but this you may rest assured of, that I will not suffer my spirits to be depressed, and should my father ever so peremptorily insist upon my giving my hand where it is impossible to bestow my heart, he shall never prevail.

AH, madam, said the captain sighing, I shudder but to think of his authority, —there is a means,—

CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN CROSBY, returned miss CLIFFEN with a reserved brow, is surely too nice in his own sentiments, and has too much respect for me to propose an improper step.

LET the urgent necessity, cried the captain, plead my excuse, for what at any other period my soul would condemn. The danger, the unspeakable apprehension of losing you for ever, would now render eligible, — oh, madam!

You shall not, said miss CLIFFEN, interrupting him, forfeit my good opinion by convincing me your notions of delicacy and propriety are less strict than my own, — I will hear no more.

THIS she pronounced with an assumed firmness, as she perceived the captain was preparing to importune her further.

THEN all is at an end with me, said captain CROSBY, and this parting will indeed be a fatal one.

AND could you, sir, demanded miss CLIFFEN, with a mixture of displeasure
and

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and tenderness, with a female, whose brightest characteristics are gentleness, timidity, and modesty, so far to subdue her nature and disclaim her sex, as to engage in masculine enterprizes.

How many examples, said captain CROSBY, have we——

TELL me not of examples, said miss CLIPPEN, hastily interrupting him, to weaken those resolutions of adhering to propriety and decorum, which you ought to strengthen and confirm.

SIR ARTHUR had been a very close house-keeper, ever since that affair of his sister's, except at certain periods, when he was satisfied she could not be apprized of his intention. Mr. PETERSON and captain FARRELL were his daily visitants, and notwithstanding the baronet judged it impossible for that gentleman to have an interview with his daughter, until a more convenient period, he had proposed their giving directions to an attorney to prepare the marriage articles, and it was mutually agreed, that on his first introduction to the lady, they should be properly executed.

SIR

SIR ARTHUR had a happy talent for forming a malicious plot—and, as he could not, with propriety, decline his city engagement; though he was by no means well affected towards it, he was prepared to make his advantage of it.

ACCORDINGLY, one of his servants was bribed to give him intelligence if the fellow came (as he called him).—He, likewise, appointed the lawyers to attend at his house at ten that evening: nor were Mr. PETERSON and the captain without their instructions.

HE had no doubt of carrying all before him; if his sister, by a repetition of her late indiscretion, did but furnish him with an excuse for that rage and austerity, he was too conscious would be necessary to intimidate his daughter into compliance.

UNFORTUNATELY for the lovers, the servant had obeyed his master's directions with a too fatal punctuality, immediately upon the gentleman's arrival: but, as sir ARTHUR was at so great a distance as *Lombard-street*, he did not reach home

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until the most critical part of the captain and miss CLIFFEN's conversation.

SIR ARTHUR could scarcely trust his senses, when, by clapping his ear to the key-hole of the great parlor door, agreeably to his conductor's advice, he found his daughter in close conference with one of his sex; as he had conceived his sister to be the only faulty person.

BUT how was he agitated with passion and resentment, when he distinctly overheard captain CROSBY make this reply to miss CLIFFEN's injunction of mentioning his proposal no more.

THEN, madam, I must submit to be the sacrifice of those resolutions: my peace, my happiness, my every pleasing expectation blasted. Sir ARTHUR will soon return, and all future intercourse this night will be inevitably cut off, as my brother is obliged to leave town in the morning.

O BRAVE! said the exulting listening baronet.

THE

THE time approaches fast when you will be compelled to marry that most despicable of wretches FARRELL, — and never, never again will you have so happy an opportunity of escaping. — I would place you with a lady of unexceptionable prudence, under whose protection you might elude all search, until the expiration of one month; when, by making yourself a parishioner, you would have the power of blessing me with your hand.

SIR ARTHUR could contain himself no longer. — But, bellowing with infinite vociferation, JACOB! JACOB! thieves! thieves! threw the affrighted pair into the most pitiable condition imaginable.

MISS CLIFFEN, almost sinking from her seat, had but just time to cry, Oh heavens! my father! — We are both undone! — before a multitude of servants burst into the room.

SIR ARTHUR headed the mob with great gallantry. — I'll teach you, sir, said he, to attempt the carrying off a daughter

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daughter of mine. — Seize him this instant.

THE servants advanced. — Captain HENRY drew his sword. — Upon the sight of which they all retreated. — Stand off, fellows, said he, I have no bad design. You, sir, addressing the baronet, are acquainted with the worst of my intentions. My name is CROSBY; what I have done I dare to justify: but you are that lady's father, and abundantly my senior; I, therefore, only beg leave to observe, that you have no right to detain me, nor to command these myrmidons to seize me.

OUT of my house, sir, out of my house, sir, cried sir ARTHUR, somewhat intimidated; I want to detain no detains, but take notice, Mr. *Fortune-hunter*, that, if ever you attempt to enter my doors again, you shall meet with a warm reception. A blunderbuss shall salute you — that's all.

My safety, returned Mr. CROSBY, casting a tender look upon miss CLIFFEN, as he quitted the parlor, is now become of little consequence to me.

A MORTAL

A MORTAL bluff killing-looking fellow, said JACOB, peeping after the captain; wounds, how he flourished his sword!

So, mistress, said sir ARTHUR to his daughter, who was overwhelmed with affliction, shame, and mortification, it is now out of your power to bless your worthless chap with your hand (imitating the captain's accent) you forward hussy you. What trouble and disgrace do you bring upon your father's head.—But you shall not see another living soul until the captain comes, when the writings shall be signed; and, if he has no objection, the time appointed for your nuptials shall be shortened.—Come, added he, seizing her roughly by the arm, if your ladyship permits me to place you securely, I promise you, I will take care to keep you out of that puppy's clutches.

WHILST sir ARTHUR was performing the above ceremony by his daughter, miss MARGARET tripped through the hall with captain JAMES. Fly, fly, cried she, I beseech you, whilst my wife brother

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brother is locking up that treasure, he was never in the least danger of losing.

As she was returning, in great exultation, on her swain's happy escape, she met her brother, who muttered — Yes, I think I have secured — But, seeing his sister, he exalted his voice, with — So, madam, I am greatly indebted to you.

It is but seldom, brother, returned miss MARGARET pertly, that you have the gratitude to acknowledge as much.

Do you laugh at me, you superannuated flirt you? said sir ARTHUR, flaming with resentment.

Your language is very coarse, brother, returned the lady coldly.

AND your behavior is very scandalous, sister, returned the baronet.

WHAT new whim, said miss MARGARET, affecting surprize, has taken possession of your worship's brain?

WHIM, mistress! retorted sir ARTHUR; what! I suppose you know nothing

thing of the fellow's design to carry off BETSEY?

DESIGN to carry off BETSEY? repeated miss MARGARET contemptuously; I tell you no such design entered their heads, nor have your suspicions the least foundation but in your own bright fancy.

AM I then deaf? interrogated the baronet with great vehemence. May I not believe my own ears?

No, nor your eyes neither, replied she scornfully. For, take my word for it, you both hear and see double.

AND I know, Mrs. MARGARET, said sir ARTHUR, you have both a double and a provoking tongue: but you had best take care.

WHAT, would your worship beat me? cried she, advancing in the most aggravating manner.

You richly deserve it, returned sir ARTHUR.

AND

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AND you are mean and cowardly enough to do it, said the inflamed lady, who would not have been sorry if she could have incited him to furnish her with an excuse for throwing herself into her lover's arms.

AT this instant a loud rap at the door hurried sir ARTHUR into the parlor, and miss MARGARET, finding she could carry matters no further that evening, stole up to her own apartment with great composure.

CAPTAIN FARRELL was immediately introduced to the ruffled baronet; who received him with the best grace he could assume; and the lawyers and Mr. PETERSON soon following, it was determined to put their design of completing the deeds into instant execution. — That the captain should have three days allowed him, from that period to recommend himself to the lady's favor, and, on the fourth, by marrying her, render it of very little consequence whether she approved him or not for the ensuing part of her life.

CHAP. IV.

Contains a most affecting incident. — A fortunate discovery. — A droll deception. — With a new instance of JACOB's wisdom.

SIR ARTHUR, in his rage, did not perceive that Mrs. DOLLY was in his daughter's apartment, when he so judiciously locked up that young lady. — A happy circumstance, indeed, for her, who stood greatly in need of consolation and support. The girl, as has been already mentioned, was naturally sprightly and humane, and most affectionately attached to her mistress: she, therefore, used every means in her power to compose the agitation of her spirits, lest her health should be prejudiced.

I AM sure, said she, chafing miss CLIFFEN's temples with lavender water, if I was you, madam, no father on earth should make me miserable. Whilst people have money, friends, and reputation, what have they to fear? — If they cannot find happiness in one house, they may in another. — And I am sure I would not stay under this roof another hour.

DOLLY

DOLLY, said miss CLIFFEN, I believe you mean me well. — I acknowledge I am hard driven, and that there is no situation upon earth but would be preferable to the one I am placed in. — But I have not the courage to make a bold attempt — nor do I know whither to fly, or how to dispose of myself.

O DEAR madam, said DOLLY, if that is all, I'll soon shew you the way to my father and mother's; you have done them the honor to think them good sort of people — and I am confident they are entirely in your interest.

I HAVE no doubt, replied miss CLIFFEN, of their kindness — but I have objections. — I would rather stay in *London*. — In my father's house, if he would permit me. — If not, —

Go to your uncle's, madam, said DOLLY, he will receive and protect you.

I THANK you for your advice, returned miss CLIFFEN, and will consider of it.

THE

THE lawyers being arrived, sir ARTHUR hastened to bring down the lovely prisoner; when, finding DOLLY in the room, he was horribly chagrined; rebellion, plots, &c. &c. crowding upon his imagination. — But, reflecting how near he had brought things to a conclusion, and determining to be more circumspect for the future; he kept his passion within bounds; only driving her rather ungenteelly before him into the parlor.

CAPTAIN FARRELL advanced with great gallantry, so soon as the young lady made her appearance; bowing once, twice, and thrice; whilst, in softest accents, he gave utterance to a compliment which he had previously composed for the great occasion of his introduction. — Then, offering his hand, begged she would permit him to lead her to a chair: but miss CLIFFEN, brushing by him disdainfully, threw herself upon a settee, the tremor and confusion she was in rendering her but little capable of standing.

THE lawyers, on an intimation from sir ARTHUR, had prepared the instrument
for

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for signing: captain FARRELL accommodated himself with the best pen he could find, to avoid, if possible, making an ill figure upon parchment: the doughty knight snatching up another, roughly seized his daughter's hand, for a purpose sufficiently obvious, — when the door suddenly opened, and miss MARGARET, half frantic with rage, burst in upon them.

WHAT then, exclaimed she, I am abused, it seems? you confident thing, you, — (furiously addressing her trembling niece) and could you find no convenience but your aunt; whose tenderness for you has been equal to that of a mother?

SIR ARTHUR, catching her arm, desired to know what was the matter?

LET me come at her, said miss MARGARET, forcibly struggling to disengage herself. — I will tear her eyes out.

Go, said sir ARTHUR, in a placid accent, to his daughter, go into the next room till you are called for.

MISS

MISS CLIFFEN gladly obeyed this command; and, as the next parlor had a communication with the hall, the hall with the square — she made no kind of ceremony of it — but, walking out with great precipitation, put herself into a chair, ordering the men to convey her to Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN'S,

SIR ARTHUR compelled his sister, though with great difficulty to sit down, and still holding her hands, asked her how she could suffer herself to be so transported with passion, — adding what harm has the girl done you?

HARM, repeated miss MARGARET with much acrimony; — o no harm to be sure, — only spirited up a young fellow to deceive me, — made me her cat's-paw that's all.

WHAT then said sir ARTHUR, with an air of triumph, you are at last convinced that the fellow I detected plotting with her, had such an intention.

YES, yes, returned miss MARGARET, endeavoring to squeeze out some tears, the

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the wicked wretches had concerted their plan, and made me truly their go-between—their—

THEY, said sir ARTHUR, interrupting her, no sister let me tell you, you have no body to blame but yourself, — such vanity and credulity.—

AND do you upbraid me too? exclaimed she, in a kind of phrenzy——

No not I, replied the baronet with great calmness,—as the proverb says, *All's well that ends well*, — BETSEY's safe and I am satisfied.

AND will you not revenge this affront? demanded the lady.

REVENGE, said sir ARTHUR, what have I to revenge,—if you will play misis in her teens, you must take the consequence.

You shall dearly repent this, said misis MARGARET, again relapsing into that soft sorrow, that is productive of a falling shower.

HER

HER three thousand pounds instantly presented themselves to sir ARTHUR's imagination, — his rancor was subdued, — come, come, said he, assuming a soothing accent, be pacified, — the girl will not have it in her power to play you many more pranks, my good captain FARRELL (at the same time shaking hands with that gentleman) will tame her.

BUT miss MARGARET was deaf to his intreaties, and again breaking out (regardless of the interruption she gave the company, and the miserable aggravation of her at best unpleasing features) such a letter said she have I had delivered to me, — such a discovery have I made—

Do not I beseech you, sister, said sir ARTHUR, any longer prevent our execution of the business we were engaged in, — you shall be a witness if you please, — therefore compose yourself, at least, for the present, and we will give the cause a second hearing, at some future period, — you are ready captain, added he ringing the bell—

DOLLY

DOLLY officiously appeared, her anxiety and tenderness for her mistress, not permitting her to rest until she was acquainted with her fate.

TELL BETSEY, child, said sir ARTHUR, with a delightful aspect, from anticipating the determination of his wishes, to come hither. She is in the dining parlor,

DOLLY dropt her curtesey—but was surprized on entering the room, to find no miss CLIFFEN, she ran up stairs with the same ill-succefs, and began at length to conceive hopes, that the young lady had taken her advice, and delivered herself out of their hands: she returned therefore to the company with very different feelings, to what she had experienced on receiving sir ARTHUR's orders to send in his daughter—and drawing a rueful countenance, began with an, oh, sir!

THE baronet started—what now wench, cried he,—why do you stare so!

O do not blame me, sir, resumed the sly DOLLY, on my bended knees (dropping

ing down at his feet) I protest I am innocent, as all my fellow servants can witness.

INNOCENT, repeated sir ARTHUR, looking aghast, innocent of what?

OF my young lady's flight, bellowed out she most audibly; but whether Mrs. DOLLY by over-acting her part excited suspicions in the baronet's breast; or, whether it was a property of his nature to be suspicious, is, by no means, essential to the reader, but certain it is, he made her this unfavorable reply :

FLIGHT, thou hypocrite! — Flight! repeated he; yes, yes, you are innocent, with a vengeance! — A likely story, indeed, that she should escape, unacquainted as she is with the town, unless you had assisted her. — Then, hardly knowing what he did, he bawled out, JACOB! JACOB! destruction! thieves!

JACOB, terrified at this alarm, ran, pale and breathless into the room; echoing his master with the utmost vociferation.

RUN, fly, said sir ARTHUR, search every street, coach, and chair.

SEARCH, your honor, cried JACOB, trembling, for whom?

I'LL honor you, you blockhead, said sir ARTHUR. — Whom, you lout, but your young mistress? — O the sycophant, the crocodile, the fly designer!

INDEED, sir ARTHUR, said captain FARRELL, making a very small figure on the occasion, this is a most ugly turn.

DEPEND upon it, sir, returned sir ARTHUR, all will yet be well. — When, observing that JACOB remained upon the same spot as before, he renewed his orders of immediately searching for his mistress, with many oaths.

LORD! sir, said JACOB, drawing back a few paces, I *darstn't* search, I have just seen a *ghostee*.

OUT of my way, you miserable wretch! said sir ARTHUR, rushing by him. — If she is above ground I will recover her ;
and

and then all the devils in hell shall not counterwork my purpose.

CAPTAIN FARRELL, taking his hat, followed the outrageous baronet; and the gentlemen of the quill, exchanging a significant shrug, folded up their papers, most consequentially, and soon made their exit.

Marcy on us, cried JACOB, what a stir his worship makes! — I am glad I escaped with whole bones. — For, in fault or not in fault, if our *superials* are crost, we must stand the brunt of it. — Then, pausing a few moments, he added, I'll *waund* it was young madam that whisked by me all in whiteness that I mistook for a spirit — and with no bad reason, for she was fleet as a hare, and I had only a snuff of a candle to *stinguish* by. — I'd give something, however, to be *sertain*; for I don't like your *ghostees*, *specheessly* your town *ghostees*, for they must be deadly *mischievius*.

C H A P. V.

Concise, droll, and whimsical.

MR. PETERSON who was to have been one of the witnesses to the deeds, miss MARGARET and the bel-
lowing DOLLY (who presumed to seat herself at humble distance to vent her grief) were now the only remaining company.

So Mrs. DOLLY, said miss MARGARET willing to discharge a little more of her malice and resentment, here are fine doings—but let me tell you, I am not so easily imposed upon as my brother.

No madam, replied DOLLY, a little too pertly (wiping away her tears) so it appears indeed,

IMPERTINENCE, said miss MARGARET, and do you pretend to judge of appearances? I say it is impossible, the girl could elope without your assistance.

NAY, madam, answered DOLLY, you may say as you please, but I defy you to prove it.

I'LL

I'LL have you discharged as a dangerous person, returned miss MARGARET pettishly, o'my conscience it is your forwardness that has corrupted my niece's morals.

If my young lady, said DOLLY with a malicious smile, had my instructions, she had likewise the benefit of other folk's example.

LEAVE my presence, said miss with great vehemence, I am not to be insulted by such a wretch as you.

DOLLY got up, and muttering somewhat about fortunes making people imagine themselves privileged to do any thing, she walked off clapping the door rather rudely after her.

MR. PETERSON during this smart dialogue between Mrs. DOLLY and her mistress, had been revolving how he might best repay himself the loss he had sustained in his late disappointment; he had more than once entertained a design of paying his addresses to miss MARGARET, but the apprehension of the merchant's

marrying, and thereby defeating the purpose of his interested union with the lady, had for some time retarded him. However when he came coolly to reflect, that three thousand pounds were three thousand pounds, that it was a hundred to one if Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN ever thought of changing his condition, that every undertaking was attended with hazard, and that at worst he should derive no inconsiderable advantage by his alliance to so wealthy a family, he determined to attack her in her present mood, conjecturing that her recent loss would be no unfavorable circumstance for him, — he therefore boldly adventured, having duly condoled with her upon her misfortune, to make an humble tendre of himself, and met with such encouragement as exceeded the most sanguine expectations.

THE gentleman was eloquent, the lady easily intreated, infomuch that before sir ARTHUR's return, which was within the space of a single hour, they were got upon the most friendly and intelligible footing imaginable.

SIR ARTHUR could not forbear expressing much dissatisfaction at the apparent

rent composure (not to say rapture) of his sister, her countenance accusing her with want of natural affection; adding, had you lost an only child, I could not be equally unconcerned.

LOST, returned miss MARGARET, no, no! BETSEY is not so soon lost, — you may rest satisfied in that particular, — I believe I can guess where her ladyship is flown to.

TELL me, tell me but that, cried the baronet with great eagerness, and I will forgive you all that is past.

THAT is so like you, brother, said miss MARGARET with a sneer, finding he had so soon swallowed the bait, hot without a cause, and cool without a reason, but does not your worship suspect?

WHOM interrogated he with much impatience?

YOUR brother JAMES, replied the lady, — the baronet paused — impossible, cried he, he is incapable of such an action, nor would I ever pardon him.

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THE latter is in your own breast, said miss MARGARET, but you may depend upon the former, — has she not always met with encouragement from him, — he considers your proceedings as unjust and oppressive, and will undoubtedly afford the injured innocent an assylum at his house.

I do believe you are just in your conjectures, said sir ARTHUR, and if you are henceforth, I have no brother.

C H A P.

C H A P. VI.

Unlike the preceding one in length, but replete with serious rational matter.

MISS CLIFFEN had no sooner taken shelter in a chair which happily stood at a small distance from the house, than drawing the curtains to prevent observation, she began to congratulate herself, no less upon her escape from her father's rigor, than her aunt's resentment.

THE fellows suspecting there was some elopement in the case, by the lady's appearance and confusion, consequently that they should be well rewarded for their expedition, made long strides of it, and soon set her down before her uncle's door.

SHE was unacquainted with their fare, but putting half a guinea in the man's hat, who was more immediately assisting in her getting out, and seeing him well satisfied, she stepped into the house with an agitated heart.

MR. JAMES was a little indisposed and alone, he started on her entrance, but received her kindly—and desired she would acquaint him with the cause of his seeing her at that late hour unattended, and in so unsuitable a dress for a visit, as she had neither hat nor gloves on,—miss CLIFFEN gave him a circumstantial account of all that had happened, concluding with begging him to protect and pity her.

MR. CLIFFEN was by no means surprised, either at his brother's proceedings or his niece's conduct, but whilst he secretly blamed the one, he applauded the other for her prudent choice of a protector.

He kindly assured her of his best endeavors to settle every thing to her satisfaction, but that it was necessary in order to enable him to be serviceable to her, that she should make no reserve, but frankly communicate the state of her heart relative to every particular. — You are of an age, continued he, that is peculiarly susceptible of tender impressions, and perhaps your repugnance to the match your father proposes to you, may
in

in a great measure arise from your attachment to another. Miss CLIFFEN attempted to reply, but her confusion would not permit her, until encouraged by her uncle's farther importunity.—Do not hesitate, my love, said he, it is a false modesty that would prompt you to deny your approbation of a worthy object, and I have too good an opinion of you to suppose you capable of making an unworthy choice.

MISS CLIFFEN, at length, became somewhat assured, and with the most engaging modesty, made her uncle acquainted with her partiality for captain HENRY, and perfectly secured that gentleman's prepossession in her lover's favor, by mentioning his connexion with MAJOR BROMLEY.

ON his being informed of the nature of their acquaintance, the deception with respect to miss MARGARET, &c. &c. he could not suppress a smile,—but reflecting upon the slight knowledge miss CLIFFEN had of captain HENRY (for she ingenuously told him she was ignorant both of his family and fortune) he was rather dissatisfied.

NOTWITHSTANDING this young man's being connected with MAJOR BROMLEY gives him consideration with me, as you child, said he, are a stranger to the merits of that gentleman's character, it ought not with you, — your young officers in general have nothing but their commissions and address to recommend them, and are not improperly ranked amongst the class of fortune-hunters; it was therefore very imprudent of you to throw away your affections so precipitately, — but do not be uneasy continued he (perceiving she was greatly perplexed) you shall not repent having fled to me, it is a proof of the goodness of your heart, — I will send for the young person and talk with him, and if I find him worthy of that approbation you have rather prematurely bestowed upon him, I will try to serve you both.

MISS CLIFFEN was so much affected by her uncle's goodness, that she was unable to thank him, other than by her speaking looks.

I THINK, niece, said Mr. JAMES, I may rely upon your not abusing my indulgence;

dulgence; locks and bolts are but poor securities against perverseness and ingratitude, it is your mind not person that I am anxious to retain.

HAD my father, sir, said miss CLIFFEN (pardon the reflexion) practised the same generous arts to win me to his purpose, you now do to engage me to your's, I had never left his house,—my happiness too would have been in danger, for the human heart may be soothed where it cannot be compelled.

DURING this tête à tête in the city, JACOB as principal actor in the scene of confusion at *Grosvenor square*, was in the utmost consternation and affliction. What a multiplication of mischiefs, said he to himself, dost thou draw down by thy mismanagement upon thy own miserable pate,—thou meanest to serve every body, and verily serveest no body: who could have dreamt that delivering that letter to madam MARGARET should have kicked up such a mortal racket, — but so it was, a half drunken fellow brings it to thee, and pours forth a thousand charges to give it into no one's hands but miss CLIFFEN's,—there was the mistake,—
and

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and thou like a simpleton, carriest it to miss MARGARET. What will become of thee with the *gemmen*? no more kind words, no more broad pieces must thou expect to receive,—it is a piteous matter,—yet perhaps their honors would be glad to hear how things go with us, it is well to know the very worst.—I'll hie to them and do the last in my power to serve them. This was a rational and happy thought of JACOB's, and intitled him to no inconsiderable reward, as captain HENRY was half dead with anxiety.

It was indeed owing to that gentleman's impatience, to obtain a knowledge of miss CLIFFEN's treatment and resolutions, that all that hurly burly happened. Captain JAMES was under a necessity of leaving town the next morning, and nine days of the fortnight's indulgence captain HENRY had procured from his commanding officer were already expired; he had therefore been tempted to dispatch a fellow with a letter of tender enquiries immediately on his return to his lodgings, which contained some unfavorable reflexions respecting miss MARGARET, and in short, unravelled the mystery of their whole proceedings.

THE

THE fellow had received very particular instructions relative to his conduct, together with a quickening fee, and a promise of a handsome gratuity, on the proper execution of his business.

As he was making for the square with the requisite expedition, captain HENRY's evil genius cast an idle companion in his way, that he had not seen for some time, — there was no resisting so powerful a temptation, — pleasure in his heart, and money in his pocket, one mug of beer could do him no harm; but unfortunately that mug was so often replenished, that in the end he became but ill-qualified to transact his important commission. He did however deliver the letter safe to JACOB, but made use of such expressions, as led that otherwise judicious minister into the error already related; and finding, as he soon did, that instead of procuring an answer, he had thrown the whole house into confusion; he thought proper to content himself with what he had received (the service proving inadequate to even that reward) and never returned to the gentlemen more.

CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN HENRY's apprehensions were become altogether unsupportable, when JACOB's arrival in some measure relieved him, for notwithstanding he was unable to learn the place of miss CLIFFEN's retreat, he was greatly comforted by the reflexion that she was out of their power; he therefore made the fellow ample amends for his diligence, intreating him, if possible, to procure him some intelligence within the ensuing four and twenty hours, and after that period he should be at too great a distance from *London*, and too critically situated, either to receive or derive any advantage from his farther service.

JACOB promised his best endeavors, but as he had mortally offended miss MARGARET, and sir ARTHUR was by no means of a communicative disposition, he was utterly incapable of rendering himself in any degree useful, and could only lament his hard fortune, in being so suddenly deprived of such worthy masters, and of his usual importance with his mistress.

DURING

DURING JACOB'S absence, sir ARTHUR, notwithstanding it was past eleven o'clock at night, posted to his brother's (leaving Mr. PETERSON and his sister to renew their interesting conversation) and finding his daughter so safely lodged, his resentment abated with his apprehensions, for he had had some suspicion that she had chosen a different assylum. As to the flourishes he threw out to his sister, with respect to never again being upon good terms with the merchant, they were idle and unmeaning, that gentleman having always the power of buying his brother's favor, who was too good a politician to quarrel with his own interest.

MR. JAMES argued the point with sir ARTHUR with his usual mildness, and at last told him, that his daughter's prejudice against captain FARRELL, was rather owing to some little inclination she had for a friend of MAJOR BROMLEY's, than opposition to his will, and that he was determined to have an interview with the young spark, in order to judge of the propriety or impropriety of her sentiments.

SIR

SIR ARTHUR was greatly enraged at this intimation, called miss CLIFFEN a rebellious forward huffy, and declared captain FARRELL was his man, and marry him she should, let what would be the consequence.

WITH all my heart, brother, returned the merchant coolly, but you will please to remember that he shall never be master of a penny of my money.

SIR ARTHUR's passion instantly subsided, how whimsical it is of you, said he in a kindly accent, to espouse the interest of a stranger and a beggar.

A MAN of education, good morals, and worthy connexions, returned Mr. JAMES can never come under that denomination, notwithstanding his fortune may be inferior to what you have set your heart upon, but, continued he resolutely (perceiving his brother was preparing to oppose him) my resolution is fixed, and if I am indulged in this point, I will not attempt to interfere in any other.

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THE baronet fretted inwardly at his brother's absurdity and obstinacy, but thought proper after some little farther altercation to consent to a note of invitation's being dispatched to the fellow (as he disrespectfully styled him) on condition he was allowed to be present at his examination, he was likewise prevailed upon not to see his daughter at that juncture, — he therefore took his leave, repeatedly enjoining the merchant not to take one step without him.

MR. JAMES CLIFFEN did not inform his niece of every particular of their conversation, as he was unwilling to occasion her unnecessary hopes or fears, nor was she privy to a messenger being sent to invite captain HENRY to spend the ensuing evening with Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN, until his return with the mortifying intelligence, that the gentlemen had discharged their lodging, and quitted *London*, at ten in the morning, with an intention as was supposed to go abroad; for notwithstanding captain HENRY had determined to continue in town to the last moment on miss CLIFFEN's account, he had had the mortification to find on examining

amining his finances, that he had undertaken more than he could perform, and therefore most gladly embraced a brother officer's offer of a cast to the *Isle of Wight*, having barely sufficient to defray his travelling expences, by a too great liberality with respect to master JACOB.

THIS news was infinite relief to miss CLIFFEN's agitated heart, though at any other period it would have had a contrary effect, but the pleasing reflexion, that he was not yet rejected by her uncle, a respite obtained for her, relative to captain FARRELL, and no impossibility whatever improbability of her being at last happy, in great measure revived her drooping spirits.

THE baronet was piqued at his arrival to find his brother unchanged in his resolution, especially as the young gentleman was withdrawn to such a distance, as required no small time and patience in effecting Mr. JAMES's purpose of an interview, but as he could perceive no remedy, he was obliged to submit, and on the merchant's executing a deed to intitle his niece to half his fortune upon his decease, the other half conditionally (except

cept seven thousand pounds to his sister) he consented that miss CLIFFEN should remain under her uncle's protection, during her continuance in town, that DOLLY should be sent to attend her, and that she should have free egress and ingress without let or molestation; concessions no less unexpected, than grateful to the poor harrassed creature.

SIR ARTHUR at breakfast the next morning, could not forbear insultingly telling his sister what JAMES had done for BETSEY, adding by way of triumph, that she would have as fine a fortune as a peers.

MISS MARGARET felt all the force of this insult, and as she had no other revenge in her power, resolved to accept Mr. PETERSON's hand immediately, provided he did but give her an opportunity, by repeating her solicitations.

IN this disposition her brother left her to visit his DULCINEA,—Mr. PETERSON happened to call in the lucky minute, and proving sufficiently importunate (agreeable to lady WISFORT's ideas) to save decorum, miss MARGARET consent-

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ed to meet him at *Bow* church that very day fortnight.

BUT that her wedding might not run altogether in the vulgar strain, unromantic, unmysterious, she insisted upon wearing a mask for the day, and being conveyed to his little retreat at *Richmond*, in the evening.

HER lover agreed to indulge her whims, and in due time, she prepared a letter of information for sir ARTHUR with respect to the choice she had made, which she determined to lay upon his dressing table the very morning of her elopement. MR. PETERSON advised her from prudential considerations to suppress her resentment as much as possible, but as his arguments were then strengthened by legal authority, she ventured to gratify her own inclination, and poured forth all her rancor.

THIS lady was ever unfortunate (for pleasure uncommunicated is but half enjoyed) she had no confidant to reveal her thoughts to, and soliloquies were at best but dull relief,—she therefore passed but an uneasy time in Mr. PETERSON's absence,

fence, until the happy day arrived — when she was punctual to a nicety in her attendance at the church, and the ceremony was performed to their mutual satisfaction, except a little fretfulness, the parson insisting upon not marrying any one in masquerade, occasioned the bride — they were conveyed to *Kew*, — where they dined, and in the evening took up their residence as intended at *Richmond*.

SIR ARTHUR had so long apprehended his sister would take some foolish step, that he rejoiced on reading her scurrilous epistle, that it was no worse, consoling himself on the loss of a precarious three thousand pounds, with the certainty he had gained respecting his brother's large possessions.

His family being now reduced (as to principals) to himself alone, he had at last the modesty to quit MAJOR BROMLEY's house, and retired to a little lodging, sending all his servants except JACOB down to a farm he had within thirty miles of *London*.

MR. JAMES CLIFFEN was unspeakably happy in his niece's company and conversation,

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conversation, and impatiently wished for lady HAMPTON's return to town, as she was the only acquaintance miss CLIFFEN was inclined to have much connexion with, and her uncle was well assured it would be no less productive of pleasure than advantage to her.

CAPTAIN FARRELL was still encouraged by sir ARTHUR, to hope, that he should become master of the CLIFFEN estate, but that humoring the merchant was too essential a point to be neglected, he therefore made a kind of honorable retreat, as his connexions actually rendered it necessary he should visit the country, and it was impossible for him to renew his attack upon the lady until a more convenient period.

MR. CLIFFEN got a friend to enquire after the young gentlemen, who informed him that captain JAMES was embarked for the island of ——— to convoy some provisions for the relief of the inhabitants who were supposed to be in infinite distress, as the French and Indians were both endeavoring to reduce them to the last extremity of misery; and that captain HENRY's corps was upon close duty

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at the *Isle of Wight*, but whether they were intended for a foreign station or not he could not learn. The character he remitted of them, did not a little contribute to confirm the favorable impression Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN had received, and he regretted almost in an adequate degree with his niece, that he had not been able to obtain an interview previous to their departure.

MR. PETERSON's resentment beginning to cool, she made several advances towards a reconciliation with her brother JAMES, but had the mortification to find herself totally disregarded.

SHE soon repented her precipitate choice of an old fellow (as in the dissatisfaction of her heart she styled her husband) being captivated by the graceful figure and fine address of a comedian her neighbor. Mr. PETERSON had not an idea abstracted from *cent per cent*, whilst the more refined, the charming theatrical gentleman had a collection of the most engaging subjects at his fingers ends: poetry, history, politics, nothing came amiss to him, more unhappy she that was not cast in his way a few weeks earlier.

MR. PETERSON found it absolutely necessary to remove her to prevent the growing intimacy,—she was sullen upon the occasion, he was provoking; all in the wrong was the part each acted, heartily despising each others folly and perverseness.

C H A P. VII.

Contains a marvellous rencounter. — Some strokes of brutality which the author is certain will be felt by every humane heart. — Some tattle of the little envious. — Abundance of tears — which are a prelude to what will be found in the succeeding chapter.

BUT it cannot be mal-a-propos at this period to bestow some consideration upon lady HAMPTON and family.

THE reader may remember, that the young lady had just contracted an intimacy with miss PARNEL, when he was whirled to town to take a view of the baronet's affairs.

Two months had now elapsed in the most pleasing round of rational satisfaction: the ladies becoming every hour more and more attached to each other, from the exact similarity of their tastes and inclinations; when the races brought them, as they did numbers of others, to reside a few days at *Chester*.

MISS HAMPTON had so far recovered her vivacity, that she bespoke a new suit of cloaths upon the occasion; not from having forgotten her lover, but the relief she received from making him the constant subject of her conversation in their private moments; miss PARNEL, with the most engaging complaisance still introducing the lively captain for the hero of each tale.

LADY HAMPTON accompanied them upon the course the first day, and conducted them to the ball; which, for that part of the world, was a most brilliant one.

Just after the first minuet was over, miss HAMPTON observing a remarkably foppish, over-dressed fellow in one corner of the room, directed her friend's eyes towards him, who instantly changed countenance to such a degree as to alarm that lady, and to make her tenderly solicitous to learn the cause: but, before she could receive an answer to her friendly inquiries, the gentleman advanced; and, making an affected bow, asked miss
PARNEL

PARNEL to favor him with her hand for the evening.

MISS PARNEL, though greatly shocked and confused, refused him with visible disdain. Which so enraged the haughty beau, that he swore with some vehemence he was a cursed fool for taking the least notice of such an unsteady lady, knowing what he knew of her connexion with the great MAJOR BROMLEY; drawling out with a sneer, that she was far from being so coy when under his protection. — Then, turning upon his heel, he was at the other end of the room in an instant.

MISS PARNEL was so struck by this barbarity and ill manners, conscious of the figure she must make in the eye of her friends and all the rest of the company who were within hearing of the coarse innuendo, that she was unable to speak, but found herself in such agitation, that miss HAMPTON, apprehensive lest she should faint, begged she would give her leave to attend her into the withdrawing room. — Which proposal was gladly accepted by miss PARNEL.

THOUGH miss HAMPTON's curiosity was greatly excited, she forbore inquiring into the cause of her disorder, and used her utmost efforts to compose her.

MISS PARNEL, bursting into tears, intreated miss HAMPTON would order a chair to be called, and permit her to shelter herself from the scrutinizing eyes of the company, at her father's apartments.

You shall leave this place, my dear, said miss HAMPTON, but you shall not return home in such discomposure. Would you wound your father's peace, by letting him see you in the condition you are now in?—I am concerned at your weakness, you ought to have despised the little malice of such a coxcomb.

O MISS HAMPTON, said miss PARNELL, with great earnestness; spare me, I beseech you, the recollection of his cruelty; and, if you are really interested in my happiness, give me an opportunity of explaining his diabolical insinuation; that no trace of suspicion, relative
to

to my innocence, may remain in your heart.

MISS HAMPTON would have assured her she had nothing of that sort to fear, but she interrupted her, saying:

Excuse me, my dear madam, that it is not sufficient with me that you pay me this compliment, I shall never experience a moment's peace, until every unfavorable appearance is removed, or, at least, accounted for.

LADY HAMPTON began to be alarmed at her daughter's stay, and was not a little mortified at all she saw and heard.

THE whole room was in a buzz.—demure thing!—Who could have thought it?—What a sly, insinuating face!—Well might she wish to live retired.—And a thousand other cruel reflexions were liberally cast upon the poor injured miss PARNELL; merely from envy and malignance, at having been so frequently excelled by a creature no body knows.

HER ladyship could not forbear saying, with her usual candor and benevolence,

lence, to some company that sat near her, that she was persuaded the lady was greatly injured;—that it was base and cowardly to wound a poor defenceless creature in so public a manner.—And that if she might judge from appearances the man who had been guilty of that gallant action, would have performed a very different part if she had had either a father or brother present. Her patience was at last however quite exhausted, and before miss PARNELL and miss HAMPTON had determined how to proceed, her ladyship joined them; and expressed much concern for the cause of their withdrawing.

AH madam! said miss PARNELL, I cannot be deceived in your disposition; you must be, you are incapable of condemning any one unheard; I do therefore, flatter myself, that you will indulge me with an opportunity of justifying my conduct to you; however the rest of the world may be disposed to judge.

You may depend upon it, miss PARNELL, said lady HAMPTON, I shall take a particular pleasure in hearing you account (as I dare believe you can) in a manner

manner that will do honor to yourself, for that wretch's behavior. — You will have my unprejudiced ear; and, if you have any thing to apprehend, it is from my partiality, not severity. I am sorry you suffered yourself to be so greatly discomposed; though I cannot be surprised at it—nor will I persuade you to return to the company, until you have put it in my power to do you that justice that shall make the brutish coxcomb ashamed of himself, if he is not already above so commendable a sensibility. Come, added she, kindly taking her by the hand, we will all go together.

LADY HAMPTON's servants were immediately called; and the brave captain FARRELL (for it was he himself) enjoyed that evening, a satisfaction, his ill success in attempting to wound the innocent generally denied his malicious heart.

MISS PARNELL shed abundance of tears in their return home, and the good lady HAMPTON left nothing unsaid to soothe her into composure.

C H A P. VIII.

Contains some small part of miss PARNEL's history, which it is hoped the reader is inclined to attend to.

WHEN they arrived at lady HAMPTON's lodgings, she conducted miss PARNEL into her dressing-room, and ordering her woman not to suffer them to be interrupted, once more intreated that worthy girl to recollect herself; remember said she, with an agreeable smile, it is for your own satisfaction, not ours, that we are thus assembled, I cannot pay so ill a compliment to my penetration, as to suppose, that notwithstanding all the opportunities I have had of observing the genuine operations of your heart, that I have been so greatly imposed upon, as to have carested the undeserving, therefore spare yourself as much pain in the relation you are preparing to give us as you possibly can, without concealing any favorable circumstances relative to your conduct, that would enable us to do proper justice to your merit.

THE relief miss PARNEL had received from her tears, and the very kind behavior

vior of lady HAMPTON and her daughter, at length rendered her somewhat assured, and she said

IF you ladies had, according to my father's reference, required an explanation of the obligation I am under to your family, this misfortune would not have befallen me, but perhaps, added she sighing, it was but too evident that I had particular reasons for declining the subject, and considerably forbore inquiring out of a generous tenderness for my repose.

THE ladies assured her that they had never felt the least curiosity after her father's first mention of that circumstance, and that it was merely inattention that had prevented their leading to the subject, though in reality, they had been restrained by different considerations, for they were too genteel to such an occasion of doing honor to a relation of theirs, when the benefited party visibly declined giving them a voluntary account of the favors they had received.

IT was my misfortune, resumed miss PARNEL, if I may be permitted to call what I suffered for my father and mother's

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ther's happiness, by that name, to accompany those tender relations to the garrison of ***** your nephew, madam, was there at that juncture, as well as the man that has so cruelly insulted me. They both visited at our house, have each of them danced with me at our little assembly—and equally endeavored to render themselves agreeable to me. I need not tell you ladies which succeeded, — I had the vanity, the presumption, to flatter myself that your nephew had forgot the disparity of our fortunes, and—but I have sufficiently exposed myself without dwelling upon that particular. I was amply punished, — the MAJOR, it was true, wished we well—spoke it too tenderly—and I believed too much.

At this period, captain FARRELL presuming upon the advantages his fortune gave him, proposed himself for a son-in-law to my father, who dealt candidly by him, and nobly by me, in short, he left me intirely to follow my own inclinations.—But my mother dazzled a little by the splendor he could bestow, and having herself rigorously experienced the misery of contracted circumstances, advised me not to be too precipitate in my rejection

rejection of him; said, it was an opportunity of advancing myself, I might never again meet with,—and that notwithstanding she could not but acknowledge he was a most egregious coxcomb, he might be master of some perfections that were only to be discovered by receiving his visits and conversing with him. She prevailed upon the governor to second her arguments, and indeed every one but the MAJOR, who was not only silent upon the occasion but made his visits at our house, more formal and less frequent than usual.

THIS behavior distressed me to the last degree, but it was not proper for me to enquire into the meaning of it—if he has no favorable disposition towards me, himself, I have often said when alone, why not recommend captain FARRELL, —and if he has, why not reveal them to me,—many a severe pang has these reflexions cost my too susceptible and aspiring heart.

I HAD not the hardiness, ladies, this affront has given me to communicate my uneasiness to any one; and, conscious that my esteem for the MAJOR was the first
motive

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motive with me, for declining to listen to the captain's addressees, I trembled lest if I should absolutely refuse him, I should betray myself to every one,—and at that time I would have embraced death as the smallest evil.

WHILST things were in this indeterminate state, orders arrived that all but a certain number of women should quit the garrison. My mother insisted upon sharing my father's fate, but they jointly compelled me to return to *England* on board a merchant-man then ready to sail, under the convoy of captain FARREL, who commanded a man of war.

WHAT this separation cost me, I will not attempt to describe, — the MAJOR sent his compliments and best wishes, but would not bid me farewell, — I embarked in horrors beyond what I could by any means account for, but alas, they were too soon explained.

A SALLEE rover made its appearance, — our captain took the first alarm — spoke with our convoy — which to our unspeakable affliction and confusion left us utterly defenseless. The pirate gained

ed upon us amazingly, — when our captain who was all humanity and goodness, came to me and told me that nothing could secure me from the most horrid treatment but passing for a married woman, the Mohammedan laws forbidding attempts upon another man's wife.

THIS kind caution however availed me but little, for two of my wretched companions whose profligacy of manners reconciled to every inhuman or unjustifiable action, betrayed me, and I could perceive there were many consultations held concerning the disposition of me.

THEY behaved with the utmost decency during our voyage, but my apprehensions were far from abating, — I feared for my future fate.

AT length we reached the port, where I was immediately separated from the good captain and all the rest of my companions, and conveyed to the house of an effendi, or minister of state, who soon paid me a visit accompanied by the Algerine commander.

I WAS

I WAS bid by an interpreter to rise and walk across the room, which I refused, but was told that if I did not voluntarily comply with those gentlemen's requests, I should be compelled. I then with the most heart-felt anguish, suffered myself to be surveyed like a beast for sale, and could observe the effendi seemed pleased with me.

I WAS once more left to my own miserable reflexions, the captain and the effendi retired together, in order, as it appeared to be, to determine how to dispose of me; they did not however long deliberate, before I received orders to prepare myself to be conveyed from thence.

I SHUDDERED with new apprehensions, but resistance would not have availed me, I therefore yielded to cruel necessity, and was soon placed in the seraglio, which is erected at this port for the reception and residence of such slaves as are deemed worthy the emperor's acceptance.

I WAS but little disposed to examine the magnificent range of apartments, I found were appointed for my use, and had
thrown

thrown myself upon a sofa in a kind of sullen despair, when those two women that had betrayed me were brought into my presence.

I ENDEAVORED to shew my abhorrence at the sight of them, and to prevail upon their conductor to leave me to myself, but I had the severe mortification to find by his significant gestures, that they were to be my attendants, and accommodate with such necessities as I should stand in need of.

THE effendi made me several visits, and behaved extremely well, as he flattered himself gentle methods would be most successful in engaging me to change my religion, and accept of such proposals as his master should be pleased to honor me with.

FOR the three first days of my captivity I ate but little, and my spirits were sunk to a low ebb, but as they forbore persecuting me in every particular, I began insensibly to recover myself, and conceived some extravagant hopes of effecting my escape. But having made many fruitless attempts to discover the
nature

nature and situation of my prison, and to win the attending eunuch to my interest, I relapsed into my former despondence, and to add to my distress I learnt from the women's conversation, that I was to be conveyed within ten days to *Morocco*.

My circumstances appearing now quite desperate, I became perfectly stupified and passively submitted to all that was required of me, when on the seventh evening whilst my attendants were preparing my table in the next apartment, a little door opened in the ceiling, and I perceived a bit of paper flying down, I eagerly caught it, but what was my astonishment when I read in my beloved language, Prepare yourself for midnight to be rescued from your captivity, by a friend who is arrived from the garrison of ***** for that purpose.

I PRETENDED to be asleep when the women entered to inform me supper was ready, in order to conceal the agitation I was under; I soon retired, and the few intervening hours to the one appointed for my deliverance, appeared as tedious in my imagination as all the other time together,

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together, that I had spent in my critical situation.

ABOUT ten o'clock my women undressed me, and told me that if I would give them leave, they would spend the remainder of the evening with some others of the seraglio who were to have a feast.

I GLADLY consenting to their absence, they immediately withdrew, and locking me in, I again relapsed into all the horrors of despair. I however with difficulty redressed myself, and lay down in my cloaths until twelve, when a private door which I was unacquainted with opened, and a man strangely disguised entered with a loose robe in his hand, for me. He threw it over my shoulders, and made me a signal to follow him—but I was unable to support myself,—he therefore tucked my arm under his, and drew me through long dark avenues until we reached the sea side, where the first voice I heard was your worthy nephew's, who received and congratulated me on my deliverance.

I INSTANTLY fainted, and did not recover my senses for a most alarming

ing period, as I was afterwards informed.

WE were eight days in our passage, during which time the MAJOR endeavored by every kind method he could think of to dispel my melancholy, but in vain, — his friendship was all I found I had to expect, — and I was so ungrateful as to wish he had let me die in my captivity, rather than by delivering me from one distress, plunge me into a greater.

HE restored me to my friends, and received their thanks in a manner peculiar to himself, — spent two or three evenings with us previous to my embarkation for *England*, and I have never beheld or heard from him since.

THUS, ladies, continued miss PARNEL, I have revealed my whole heart to you, and you must judge me as you please; this was the protection captain FARRELL alluded to, and how capable he is of giving an ill-turn to the most noble piece of generosity that ever was performed, you are but too sensible.

LADY

LADY HAMPTON kindly took her hand, saying in the same instant, I cannot, my dear, sufficiently admire my own penetration in believing as I really did believe, you could clear your conduct to your honor, and our satisfaction; we must consult, continued she, how we may best punish the wretch that has caused you so much uneasiness, and should we find our efforts unsuccessful, BROMLEY himself shall take him to task.

—I do not mean either to rally or distress you, said her ladyship, perceiving miss PARNEL was greatly confused, when I assure you, he would not only have my consent but highest approbation, if he was disposed to render that fellow palpably ridiculous by making choice of you for my niece,—his fortune is ample, and the perfections you are evidently possessed of, intitle you to share it, I am so far from being mercenary in my wishes for my friends, that I consider happiness as their most valuable acquisition (ah, my dear mamma, thought miss HAMPTON, is captain JAMES so unworthy as to be forever excluded from your approbation?) I own BROMLEY's behavior is very mysterious,

terious—FANNY and myself have both heard him declare he is engaged—I must dive into the matter.

BUT, madam, said miss PARNEL, with emotion, you will not betray —

MY dear child, said lady HAMPTON kindly interrupting her, you may rely upon my discretion,—I would not wound your delicacy on any consideration; your secret is as safe with me (and I can answer for my daughter) as if it had never escaped your own breast, unless by a concurrence of incidents you should permit us to reveal it,—but we will quit the subject,—my friendship, my affection is entirely your's, and you may depend upon it, I will omit no one opportunity of serving you.

HER ladyship went to the rooms the ensuing evening, and removed all unfavorable impressions from every breast, except the malignant and envious. Captain FARRELL had learnt from the company whose protection miss PARNEL was under, and therefore did not chuse to make his appearance again, until the matter was somewhat blown over. Miss

PARNEL

PARNEL continued her retired life in every particular, but her connexion with lady HAMPTON, and had her numerous admirers in each sex.

MISS PARNEL had but few friends, and her life was a life of solitude. She was a woman of a high and unimpaired mind, and her talents were of a high order. She was a woman of a high and unimpaired mind, and her talents were of a high order. She was a woman of a high and unimpaired mind, and her talents were of a high order.

The natural goodness of heart induced her to be concerned for her niece, and she was a woman of a high and unimpaired mind, and her talents were of a high order. She was a woman of a high and unimpaired mind, and her talents were of a high order.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Contains an unexpected piece of news, — a young lady's reflexions upon a rather melancholy occasion, a little paradoxical in their nature, being at the same time both natural and unnatural, — a mistake — a surprize — as also an instance of the possibility of a good intention being frustrated by a vain and malicious heart.

MISS PARNEL had barely shook off the chagrin her adventure with captain FARRELL had occasioned her, and began once more to be sensible to those delights which are peculiar to the friendship of congenial minds, when lady HAMPTON received an express with the account of lord BROMLEY's death, brother to her ladyship and uncle to the MAJOR, as the reader undoubtedly may recollect.

HER natural goodness of heart incited her to be concerned for her niece's fate (the young lady with whom the MAJOR past the earlier periods of his childish state) as the indulgence she had experienced from her father could be productive,

tive, she was well convinced of no better (and too probably much worse) consequence, than making her doubly sensible to every disappointment or misfortune she might meet with.

It will, my dear, said she to her daughter, be a severe tax upon your patience, to act the part of a relation by that imperious misjudging girl, but I cannot see how we can avoid giving her an invitation to spend at least those few weeks with us, during which it will not be consistent with decency to give into too much dissipation. We must not fail in our duty, added that good lady, however deficient she may be in her's.

MISS HAMPTON was all acquiescence with her mother's inclination, though she secretly wished that interruption to the pleasure she enjoyed could have been dispensed with.

LADY MARY BROMLEY's grief was by no means so poignant as might have been expected, considering how indulgent a parent and protector she had lost: but she observed with a philosophy that was very uncommon with her in every

other instance, that she ought not to be surprized at finding her papa mortal,—to be sure in the course of nature he might have continued many more years longer with her—but they must at last have been separated,—nor would the stroke have been less severe at a later period than the present instant,—that it was the inevitable termination of humanity—with many other observations equally sensible and pious.

THE truth was, that MAJOR BROMLEY had made an impression upon his cousin's heart, notwithstanding her early age, which it was not in the power of time, a round of amusements, nor her father's contempt for him to erase. She had employed her whole stock of winning arts, in order to obtain the single purpose of renewing her acquaintance with lady HAMPTON, but in vain,—the incensed peer, though in every other instance extravagant in his indulgence of her, remained implacable there,—the indignity she had offered him in being dissatisfied with his management of his and her nephew, being too great to be digested by even the consideration of his daughter's

daughter's peace, and he forbade her ever introducing the subject.

LADY MARY, by presuming to disobey this injunction, had incurred more chiding for her idle attachment to a foolish boy (as lord BROMLEY politely styled him) than for all the real follies and improprieties she was guilty of; and, provided she was silent upon that detested subject, he would tell her her conversation was at all times delightful to him.

THIS one act of cruel opposition, occasioned the first moments after lord BROMLEY's departure, to be productive of the most pleasing sensations imaginable to his surviving daughter.

HER cousin BROMLEY could not be insensible to the charms of so large a fortune as she was then possessed of, — she had it now in her power to renew their intimacy without controul, — he loved her from her infancy, — nor was she become in any degree less amiable since her happy connexion with him, — he therefore could have no objection, and she certainly should be lady BROMLEY.

WHEN this flattering tumult began to subside, an ugly recollection presented itself,—he was gone abroad—common fame had informed her of his embarkation—on an hazardous expedition too,—and perhaps she should never see him more. The queer lady HAMPTON had likewise buried herself in the country, beyond the possibility of her forming one connexion that might happily bring them together,—what a wretched circumstance,—she could otherwise have enjoyed the dear satisfaction of talking of him, and informing herself of his every proceeding. She then began to mingle the remembrance of her father's tenderness, with these her disappointments and wept most bitterly.

IN a similar disposition of mind, to what we have now described, did lady HAMPTON's letter of invitation reach this lady.

A TIDE of joy flowed in upon her so impetuously that she was unable to sustain it, but sinking upon a settee for a few moments in order to regulate her pleasing agitations, she was at length capable

pable of ringing her bell, and communicating a thousand preparatory directions for her immediate journey.

LADY HAMPTON entertained some doubt of her niece favoring her with her company, from a consciousness that her manner of life could but ill suit so giddy a creature's taste,—her humanity induced her to be anxious to know her determination, as she would gladly have saved her from being dashed against the rocks and shoals of the great world, now she was deprived of every other protection by receiving her into her peaceful and rational retirement. Two posts had elapsed without any tidings, and her ladyship was a little piqued at being so totally disregarded by a person whose happiness she had greatly at heart; when, to her unspeakable surprize, she saw a chariot and six smoaking, fatigued, horses, with lord BROMLEY's arms drive up the avenue.

LADY MARY's impatience to hear of her cousin BROMLEY, would not permit her to return any other than a personal answer to her aunt's agreeable letter, she had therefore committed her father's remains to the care of his domestics and an

eminent undertaker, and accompanied only by a newly hired affected flattering ABIGAIL, had quitted *London* for the first time with rapture.

LADY HAMPTON gave her niece a most kind reception, and ordering a servant to acquaint miss HAMPTON and miss PARNEL who had strolled into the garden with her ladyship's arrival, told her she would introduce her to as amiable a girl as she had ever met with.

LADY MARY was by no means prejudiced in miss PARNEL's favor by the commendatory mention her aunt made of her. The epithet, amiable, though it included both person and mind in lady HAMPTON's application of it, was understood by her niece to imply neither more nor less, than that miss PARNEL had the good fortune to be handsomer than her neighbors; an information that immediately excited her envy and disapprobation, and occasioned her to salute this declared favorite with apparent coolness on her being presented to her.

MISS PARNEL was not insensible of lady MARY's slighting behavior, but imputed

puted it to the pride of condition which would not permit her to be too condescending to a little unbred rustic.

It was not many hours before the unfavorable impression this woman of quality had received of the modest unoffending, miss PARNEL, was aggravated into the most fixed hatred; for, unfortunately, as they entered lady HAMPTON's dressing room the ensuing morning, miss PARNEL's figure and her own appearing at full length to her mortified views in an elegant pier glass, which had been brought home but the day before, and had not been otherwise disposed of than just set against the hangings in that apartment.

THE contrast was too striking not to be acknowledged, but whilst her conscience did justice to miss PARNEL's superiority of person, her vanity was most sensibly stung; and she determined to use her best endeavors to destroy every connexion between her aunt's family, and such an obscure assuming creature.

MISS PARNEL's unwearied complaisance and good humor would have bore

down every opposition her ladyship's heart could suggest to disapproving her, had not her beauty pleaded so irresistibly against her.

THE danger of her being seen by the MAJOR, and engaging his approbation, distracted her,—her rival—she should die with indignation,—and outed she must be at all adventures. She made two or three efforts towards effecting this generous design, but had the mortification to find herself not only unsuccessful, but that instead of diminishing, she increased their hateful attachment to her.

THE agitation of her mind was exceedingly uneasy to her, no friend to advise with,—no creature to confide in or assist her, she was almost at her wits end. To make a confidant of her servant, she knew by woeful experience was to make a sacrifice of her power,—brought the low wretches upon a level,—encouraged them to dispute her commands,—to be offended if excluded from her most intimate thoughts,—in fine it was death to her tyranny—and she could not submit to it.

BUT

BUT then the necessity of the case, and the capacity of Mrs. ABIGAIL presented themselves,—she had a pretty turn for mischief,—was arch, sly, and insinuating,—had the gift of dissimulation to a tittle,—was mercenary, a bribe would do every thing with her,—and it was but too evident, that nothing could be done without her,—and the only difficulty that remained, was making the first overture. But a certain friend that never fails to assist his votaries at an exigence, furnished her with a happy and most unexpected opportunity of laying the whole train of an innocent creature's destruction.

C H A P. X.

Contains some scenes in love life;—an extraordinary discovery, — the effects of envy and malevolence, — some passionate fallies — with an instance of the artifice of chamber-maids.

LADY MARY's waiting gentlewoman, though she was far from being satisfied with the company and conversation of Mrs. LLOYD, lady HAMPTON's humble worthy house-keeper, wisely made a virtue of necessity, and so deeply ingratiated herself into the good woman's favor by reading her now and then a play, the history of *England*, &c. &c. that she gratefully thought she could never make her sufficient amends.

THE poor creature, who was simplicity itself, had never seen the great city, nor was she by any means qualified for the high station she was placed in, being utterly unlearned in all those useful and polite arts practised by your judicious house-keepers who know the world; such as taking advantage of their lady's confidence

confidence in their honesty, to promote their own interest,—imposing upon their credulity by false representations, respecting both foreign and domestic concerns—grinding the face of the industrious trader, by requiring exorbitant profits out of reasonable bills, and entertaining their visitants with that elegance and profuseness, that is the characteristic of persons of their rank and denomination.

SHE reached lady HAMPTON's knowledge in a suffering condition, both with respect to her constitution and property, from the cruelty of her father, and injustice of a brother; and her ladyship's motive for keeping her to look after her country seat, was merely to enable her to lead an easy comfortable life, without incurring that wounding appellation of being a pensioner, or dependent upon her charity. She was not insensible of her limited abilities, for the capacity she was placed in, but as the worthiness of her heart was a sufficient excuse, she rather chose to submit to some inconvenience, than by being her town house-keeper to assume authority where Mrs. LLOYD was wont to reside as sole mistress, mortified

a well-meaning affectionate grateful creature.

MRS. STRAIGHT, lady MARY's attendant, contracted but one intimacy during her continuance in the country, which was with the mistress of a bowling-green, at about half a mile's distance from lady HAMPTON'S. Indeed it was properly only renewing an old acquaintance, as Mrs. BLOSSOM had formerly lived in a family where a former lady of Mrs. STRAIGHT visited, but on marrying a nobleman's footman, who had acquired a few hundreds by his card money and other fashionable perquisites, was exalted to the high character she then filled.

MRS. BLOSSOM had one daughter whom she was determined to educate in the most *politest* manner; for which purpose miss was boarded at a chandler's-shop in *Chester* (known by the name of *Huckster*) for the convenience of being near those schools, where she could be instructed in the several accomplishments of dancing, speaking French, &c. &c.

MRS.

MRS. STRAIGHT was consulted in the necessary preparations for an approaching grand occasion, viz. a school ball.

MISS PEG was to cut a dash,—a rose-colored lustring was her mother's choice,—Mrs. STRAIGHT rather opposed it as too powerful for the young lady's complexion,—but Mrs. BLOSSOM was obstinate, and a rose-color was determined upon.

MRS. STRAIGHT, however, in order to cool the appearance, recommended an immoderate quantity of white ribbon,—she was quite mistress in that article—as likewise with respect to the suit of linen, as being the best judge of suitability, and so forth.

MRS. STRAIGHT was solicited to assist in dressing the young lady,—what a happy circumstance, her being in the country at that important juncture, as she was so notorious for her genteel taste. But unfortunately they could not tell how to convey her to the ball,—the coach that was to take up miss PEG, had no less than eight girls stuffed into it,—and Mr.
and

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and Mrs. BLOSSOM were to be carried in a one horse chair. She was nevertheless intreated to be there, as the girl had set her heart upon *exhibitioning* before her, and rather than disappoint her young friend, she condescended to beg Mrs. LLOYD to accompany her.

Mrs. STRAIGHT and her companion had been seated but a short time in the ball room, before captain FARRELL entered, and by mere accident was jostled immediately in their view.

THE good woman soon recollected him (he had been shewn her by the coachman, immediately after miss PARNEL's rencounter with him) and the reflexion of the uneasiness he had occasioned her lady, made her unable to bear the sight of him with any degree of temper.

THE artful Mrs. STRAIGHT took notice of the changes her countenance underwent, and enquiring into the cause, and finding by Mrs. LLOYD's answer, that there was something particular in the case, pushed her so hard, that out of the fullness and simplicity of her heart, she revealed

revealed her dissatisfaction with its source to her inquisitive companion.

Mrs. STRAIGHT who delighted above all things in a gossip's tale, especially if it was in such a nature, as enabled her to display her eloquence to her lady, and thereby cultivate her favor and confidence, listened with no less rapture than attention to Mrs. LLOYD's relation, and was upon fidgets to return home, in order to lay the whole matter before lady MARY.

SHE had indeed received some imperfect hints from her predecessor of that lady's tendre for her cousin, and doubted not but the intelligence she had required would be highly grateful to her, if not of the utmost importance. She informed herself, by persisting to ply her honest unsuspicious communicative companion with a succession of interrogatories, that miss PARNEL, though possessed of every valuable accomplishment, was of humble birth, and limited expectations, consequently intitled to no kind of consideration; she therefore most generously and humanely determined to maul her without mercy.

MISS

Miss PEG having performed with the highest eclat, Mrs. STRAIGHT's impatience to return incited her to represent the succeeding part of the entertainment as unworthy observation, and prevailed upon the good natured credulous Mrs. LLOYD to accompany her home, notwithstanding the ball was not above half over.

MRS. STRAIGHT had the mortification of waiting until a much later hour than usual, before her lady retired, so perverse are human operations, — she however made the best use of those moments fate did at last put into her hands.

SHE received her ladyship with a simpering grace, and a lau ma'em (at the same time shutting the door) what do you think I have heard this evening?

LADY MARY, who was by no means in a complaisant humor, was so unpropitious to her hand-maid's zeal for her service, as to throw cold water upon it, by asking her with a distant and supercilious air, if it could possibly be worth her listening to?

NAY,

NAY, madam, returned the half disconcerted ABIGAIL, it is not so much a concern of mine, as my regard for your ladyship would have made it,—I am sure continued she with a pettish self-sufficient air, I am a fool to trouble myself with other people's affairs, lord BROMLEY may love miss PARNEL, and miss PARNEL lord BROMLEY, what need I care—I shall neither win nor lose by it.

STRAIGHT, said lady MARY out of breath with astonishment and indignation, I have a very good opinion of you—sit down and tell me all you know of that bold creature PARNEL—by what witchcraft she fell in my cousin BROMLEY's way,—and how far she has entangled him by her dainty fair face, and diabolical conversation.

MRS. STRAIGHT perceived she had not mistaken her cue, and replied with great vivacity, you know madam, I have a friend that keeps the bowling green, late lady JACOB's woman—she is got considerably before hand in the world, and——

Good

GOOD STRAIGHT, said lady MARY, letting her hand fall gently upon her's to render the interruption as kind as possible, in what does all this relate to my cousin and that hateful PARNEL?

DEAR your ladyship, said STRAIGHT, I must be minute or how should you comprehend the intrigue, — you must give me leave to say that my friend Mrs. BLOSSOM being before hand in life, — and having a fine thriving prospect, and as she was moreover the daughter of an ensign, he was at first to be sure only a sergeant, but no matter for that, his valor promoted him, and so he was the more to be esteemed, for your ladyship knows that as the *Spectator* says, the greatness a man is born to is no greatness at all unless his conduct —

STRAIGHT, said lady MARY, having almost bit her lips through, I can contain myself no longer, — how dare you trifle with me in this manner, and oblige me to attend to an idle tale of your trumpery acquaintance, when I am distracted to know other particulars? Then, softening her accent and taking her purse out of her

her pocket, here are five guineas, continued she, I will hold them in my hand for you, and the sooner you reach the end of your story, the sooner you will have them in your own possession.

THIS quickening fee had the desired effect, and Mrs. STRAIGHT with the utmost brevity and perspicuity, acquainted her lady with every article of information she had obtained, with many additions and embellishments of her own, which only contributed to blow lady MARY's resentment into a severe flame.

POOR Mrs. LLOYD had indeed communicated all she knew, but it amounted to no more than that captain FARRELL was in love with miss PARNEL, though no great favorite with her, that she left the garrison of ***** under his convoy, — that he deserted her, and she fell into the enemy's hands; that MAJOR BROMLEY went a prodigious way in order to, end, with much hazard and difficulty did, ransom her; that her lady's acquaintance with her was at first merely accidental, but that her merit had since engaged her highest esteem, — that she had been publicly affronted at the assembly
by

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by captain FARRELL, who had given the town an ill opinion of her, but that she had cleared up the matter to her lady's entire satisfaction, and was in more favor than ever.

UPON this slight foundation was a grand structure immediately built by the ingenious lady MARY, composed of those very valuable materials, rancor, disappointment, envy, and revenge.

UPON my word, said her ladyship with much bitterness, lord BROMLEY (for the MAJOR was now possessed of her father's title) was engaged in a most noble enterprize, it was worth endangering such a person as he is master of; truly, in order to rescue a little abject mortal from the very state nature undoubtedly intended her for,—she has all that fawning and servility, STRAIGHT that would become a slave, and I doubt not but if my formal misjudging aunt was to spurn her as she deserves, she would kneel and kiss her ladyship's feet. I had a kind of natural antipathy to her at first sight which I was unable to account for,—but the cause is now too evident, it was instinctive, STRAIGHT, for she is the greatest

est enemy I have upon earth, and I shall never rest until I make her heart ach.

Mrs. STRAIGHT extolled her lady's pious resolution; for, added she, of what advantage is a large fortune, if we cannot purchase happiness? They say money can do every thing, and as I know your ladyship's generosity to be exceeding great, I do not doubt but I shall see you perfectly at ease, with respect to that finical madam PARNEL, who I warrant fancies herself vastly my superior, because she can weedle a few people of distinction to take notice of her.

A PAUSE ensuing, for lady MARY was buried in mortifying reflexions, Mrs. STRAIGHT resumed, shall I assist your ladyship in undressing, affectedly looking upon an overgrown watch that hung by her side, I protest it is past three o'clock, and this is such a sober family, one must live by rule, I think it must certainly surfeit your ladyship.

AH, but STRAIGHT, said lady MARY, her eyes rolling (for they were incapable of sparkling) with delight, who would not punish themselves upon such an occasion?

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casion? Had I never visited *Cheshire*, I should have been ignorant of this vile affair, consequently should not have had the power to defeat the lady's devices, and subdue her pride. Let it be your care to acquire all the light you can for me, and leave me to-night good STRAIGHT, I shall not perhaps take of my cloaths till I see you again.

STRAIGHT obeyed and retired to her apartment in that kind of pleasing perturbation, an unexpected piece of good fortune occasions a weak mind, — she slept but little.

CHAP.

C H A P. XI.

Contains some ebullitions of mortified pride, some common female chit-chat.—The disagreeable part of a worthy character, with a hint to the half-bred of great importance.

LADY MARY endeavored to compose the agitation of her mind, but in vain; her mortified pride still suggested to her the galling reflexion, that she was rivaled by the poorest of all beings: what misery that she had been excluded the friendship and intimacy of her cousin BROMLEY so many years. Perhaps not one kind trace for her remained in his breast, the dissipation he must necessarily have derived from his profession, the probability that he was forgotten by her from her weak compliance with her father's unaccountably perverse will, and above all his unhappy attachment to that fair whiner, were but too strong grounds for her apprehensions.

AND could she descend to caress the woman who had most injured her, given her

her peace an irreparable wound, how she despised herself; and yet it was merely owing to lady HAMPTON's officious interposition with respect to BROMLEY's education, that she was subject to the calamity she then deplored, and there was she, fool like, hugging the viper that had stung her to the heart.

SHE would endeavor to become acquainted with FARRELL, that might be of use, she would sooner bestow her whole fortune upon him than not have ample revenge: for if lord BROMLEY would not accept of it, she was indifferent what became of it.

WHILST lady MARY experienced all the bitterness peculiar to the passions that were then predominant in her breast, miss HAMPTON and miss PARNEL enjoyed an happy tête à tête.

THEY both occupied the same apartment, were accustomed to chat whole hours after their retirement, and that night particularly indulged themselves.

CAPTAIN JAMES CROSBY and lord BROMLEY were the alternative subjects of

of their conversation, and miss HAMPTON would flatter her friend that the additional fortune and title the MAJOR had acquired, would make no other alteration in his sentiments than to accelerate their union, if ever he did intend any such thing.

WHEN miss PARNEL would have urged the improbability of his entertaining such a design, from his having never given the least intimation of it, she was silent by miss HAMPTON's insisting upon the steps she had taken for her redemption, as a proof of his regard.

ALAS! my dear miss HAMPTON, said the diffident miss PARNEL, it was his humanity, his generosity that incited him, he would have rendered the same service to any other young woman under such singular circumstances, he delights in all that is humanely brave.

You pay the other gentlemen a most horrid compliment, my friend, said miss HAMPTON, if you suppose that BROMLEY was actuated by generous motives alone; why did not they attempt so much for your service? Many of them were not in-

ferior to my cousin in all that is praiseworthy, and yet you find they were inactive upon that occasion; depend upon it, KITTY, you was of more consequence to him than to any one, and you must, you shall be my relation.

HOWEVER miss PARNEL's vanity might have been imposed upon, her credulity was not so easily taken in, she remembered indeed that the MAJOR appeared highly pleased with her public renunciation of captain FARRELL, but he had never given her any other reason than his being unworthy of her; she began to think herself highly blameable for cherishing, though but for a moment, such presumptuous hopes, a peer descend to marry the daughter of a little engineer! —impossible!

WHY did he not leave her to her fate, a sense of her condition, and some small rigor would soon have brought her to the grave, she should then have been beyond the reach both of folly and ambition, nor have so idly sunk herself in the opinion of such women as lady HAMPTON and her daughter.

HER

Her piety then began to operate. Ungrateful wretch, had providence so apparently interposed to snatch her from destruction and did she repine at it; why was she not covered with confusion? And would she, to avoid some slight mortification, have brought the best of fathers and mothers to the grave by the keenest heartfelt affliction? How vilely unnatural.

SHE then accused herself for spending so much time from her father, though he indulgently allowed her to follow her own inclinations. How could she answer it to her tenderness for him to take advantage of it, ought she not by her assiduity and conversation to endeavor to divert his mind from its too frequent meditation on her deceased mother; why did she expose herself to the supercilious treatment of the unfeeling lady MARY? She would repair her fault the ensuing morning, and dedicate a more considerable part of her time to her filial duty.

MR. PARNEL indeed had for many months affected retirement: reading and the exercise of walking divided his hours;

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he had met with a multiplicity of disappointments, which, though they had not fowered his temper, had given it a reserved cast.

HE would willingly have declined all acquaintance but on his daughter's account; and, therefore, when he could prevail on her to spend a week or fortnight at lady HAMPTON's, he seemed to enjoy himself more satisfactorily than when in order to divert her, he submitted to receive or pay a visit.

LADY HAMPTON would gladly have prevailed upon him to give her his company, as she was well convinced he could render himself a sensible and entertaining companion, if he could be prevailed upon to shake off the gloom he had contracted, but he so earnestly begged to be excused, acknowledging that the peculiarity of his taste would not permit him to be satisfied from his own habitation, that she desisted pressing him, well knowing that it was more kind to suffer persons to follow their own inclinations, than compel them by a mistaken notion of friendship to act under constraint.

C H A P.

CHAP. XII.

Contains such serious matter, that the reader if in the least subject to that fashionable disorder, the vapours, is advised to pass it over unperused.

THE morning found lady MARY and miss PARNEL unchanged in their several resolutions, in consequence of which the latter at breakfast begged leave to be permitted to return home, and the former as strenuously opposed it, not that she had formed any immediate plot against her, but she was apprehensive she might be deprived of every such opportunity when under her father's protection; the matter was however compromised, and miss PARNEL had leave of absence for three days, provided she would chearfully return at the expiration of them. Lady HAMPTON's coach was ordered for that purpose, and the ladies agreed to set her down.

I LAMENT, miss PARNEL, said lady HAMPTON, in their way to the castle, your father's disinclinations for company.

pany, as it not only deprives me of a great satisfaction but my friends likewise; I am sure lady MARY will be charmed with the sensibility of his countenance.

My father madam, said miss PARNEL, is very happy in your approbation of him, and I dare believe if any one could draw him out of his reserves, it would be your ladyship; I have heard him express as much, but this taciturnity is become so habitual to him that he cannot conquer it, and yet I have known him as chatty and volatile as any one.

THE greatest part of my life, continued she, was spent at school, and during my mother's health we were seldom without a sufficient circle of friends: I own the change was at first rather painful to me, but I am so perfectly reconciled to it, that it is become quite satisfactory to me.

WELL: deliver me, said lady MARY, from your humdrums; your people who possessing a large share of knowledge and understanding are such churls as not to let their neighbors reap the benefit of it.

an agreeable trifler is in my opinion worth a thousand of them.

I AM far, said lady HAMPTON, from subscribing to your sentiments, your trifler (which by the way is but another name for an impertinent) is a creature, which above all others I would wish to shun, as his subjects are calculated neither for the head nor heart.

BUT what would become, dear madam, said lady MARY, of half the beau monde if your sentiments were universal.

THEY would endeavor to improve themselves, returned lady HAMPTON gravely, in more important particulars than they have ever yet dreamed of, it is owing to the false taste of our company that we commit errors in our conversation; were folly scandal, and ill nature to be generally exploded, none would be so hardy as to introduce them: it is encouragement that nurtures them.

YOUR ladyship would not surely, said lady MARY, advise me to be so singular as to attempt reforming the age, the world has been what it now is for many

preceding years; nor to speak sincerely have I any quarrel with it. I am not only willing to take it as I find it, with respect to the impossibilities of rendering it otherwise, but from good liking.

I AM sorry to hear you say so, returned lady HAMPTON, for a woman of your rank and fortune might do wonders, a coach and six can give a sanction to vice, why not to virtue? Your inferiors would follow your example from their natural ambition to imitate the great; your equals in order to recommend themselves to your approbation. Till perhaps a custom might be established, where imitation alone was intended. This is the utility of fortune if properly employed, and for this use alone we are undoubtedly entrusted with it; and woe be to them that neglect the good of their species, and pervert the purpose of their lives.

LADY MARY bit her lips, reddened, but made no reply, and they were soon set down at Mr. PARNEL's apartment.

MR. PARNEL, said lady HAMPTON with an engaging sprightliness, I once more restore your daughter to your care,
and

and hope that by so frequently acquitting myself of the confidence you repose in me (as I flatter myself I do) to your satisfaction; I entitle myself to solicit future proofs of it, without being charged with trespassing upon your good nature.

THE ceremony, returned Mr. PARNEL, is all of your ladyship's own making, for so perfectly satisfied am I with your generous protection of my daughter, that I believe I should be most liable to commit a trespass by relinquishing, than confirming my claim to her.

You will not let me contend any point with you, said lady HAMPTON, by which means (as a female) you deprive me of infinite satisfaction, for contention is undoubtedly an incentive to conversation, and conversation has ever been allowed to be the life of the petticoat world.

THE means your ladyship mentions, said Mr. PARNEL, are totally unnecessary to engage me to converse, as I should find full employment if I was only to declare my approbation of your excellent tenets and conduct; my daughter

ter must, she will reap the benefit of the honor she is permitted to enjoy, but as for me, I have little more to accomplish than a preparatory for that last scene that requires more judgement to act with propriety than all the preceding one's we are engaged in. With such a memento as I have lately had, I should be inexcusable if I was to sleep on; my wife was my junior some years, but that was by no means a security for her, and though the daily instances abroad ought to prove lessons of instructions to us, yet it is more heartfelt when our own house is attacked. —

To those who have been accustomed to tread only the flowery path of life, this subject is unnatural and distasteful, but when we are hurt we are alarmed, the law of nature prompts us to extract the thorn, by those means we find most successful; and when solitude wears the charms of the most brilliant assembly, it is not surprising that it has its votaries. I have indeed outlived all my friends except that child, whose tenderness for me is my only consolation; but, seeming to recollect himself, he added, your ladyship will, I hope, excuse my bringing so much gloom

gloom upon this company, as it is merely intended to evince my disqualification for every other manner of life, than the one I have made choice of.

LADY MARY was impatient to fly the infection as she deemed it, and as lady HAMPTON perceived her inattention and apparent dislike of her company, took an early leave to prevent the old gentleman's making the same discovery.

SHE rebuked this lady highly in their return for her levity, but she was too incorrigible to be profited by her friendly admonitions.

Contains some further surprising adventures, lady MARY's fortune does great execution, a little fracas between her and her cousin with a most delectable conversation, in which Mrs. STRAIGHT makes no small figure.

THE succeeding evening to miss PARNEL's departure, lady MARY prevailed upon her cousin to attend her to the assembly, miss HAMPTON had not the least goût towards the proposition, as she was not without apprehensions of encountering captain FARRELL, but good manners obliged her to give into it.

IN this instance, like many others in life, what miss HAMPTON would so very industriously have avoided, was the very thing her cousin sought for; nor was she disappointed, captain FARRELL, covered with embroidery, was the first object that engaged lady MARY's attention.

THE reason of that gentleman's continuance at *Chester* was, that he had some months

months before his meeting with miss PARNEL, purchased the patent of his majesty's yacht as a safer command than those he had been engaged in, flattering himself that it would at once secure him from all foreign expeditions, and ever again meeting with MAJOR BROMLEY.

A FAMILY of distinction had obtained a warrant that he should convey them; and contrary winds detained them on this side the water.

LADY MARY no sooner beheld him than she gladly recollected that she had seen him at her father's, and that he had for some years been one of his levee dancers, she was determined to improve that incident to her advantage, and therefore on pretence of being dissatisfied with her seat, hauled her cousin to the other end of the room before the captain had been perceived by her, where she made that display of her charms which could not fail to attract observation.

CAPTAIN FARRELL, understood he was admired, and therefore determined gratefully to return the compliment by feeding
ing

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ing the little ugly self-sufficient mortal's vanity, but as it was impossible ever to have seen lady MARY once without soon recollecting her, a nearer observation so far assisted his memory, that he dropt his design and was very forward to do himself honor by saluting her as the daughter of his very good patron.

LADY MARY had now gained her first point, she therefore permitted him to dance with her, to the great mortification of miss HAMPTON; and would have consented to his conducting her home, had not that lady violently opposed it.

THE captain having informed himself of his patron's decease, not only from the public papers, but lady MARY's sable appearance, began to deliberate upon the merits of her fortune and the felicity of an inactive life. Storms and tempests were by no means suited to his constitution.

As to his engagement with sir ARTHUR, he looked upon it as invalidated by the lady's treatment of him, and provided he could but make himself master
of

of a handsome fortune, he was rather indifferent respecting the person. He indeed was within an ace of loving miss PARNEL, admired miss CLIFFEN, but lady MARY's title was superior to them both.

THE more he revolved these particulars, the more he was captivated; and in the end he determined to make serious addresses to lady MARY, not in the least doubting but he should recommend himself to her favor, as he was by much the most brilliant young fellow in the county.

A SOFT recollection would now and then occur to him of miss PARNEL's amiable person, as he loved her next to himself above any thing on earth, but as self-preservation had compelled him to lose her, and he had met with much contempt and mortification on that account, he was resolved to repay her scorn for scorn, unless the possession of lady MARY's fortune should enable him to steal her, and take a brutal revenge for all his sufferings.

Miss

MISS HAMPTON was so disconcerted, and lady MARY so delighted with the acquaintance she had made, that their return was by no means so social as their little journey to the assembly.

LADY MARY determined to be before hand with her cousin, informed lady HAMPTON as soon as she arrived, that she had met with one of her dear father's acquaintance at the ball, and she could not but honor him for his sake. I cannot imagine, said she, what is the matter with my cousin FANNY, she has been upon the fret the whole evening, and for no other reason in life that I know of, but from my obliging captain FARRELL with my hand.—Captain FARRELL, returned lady HAMPTON with visible displeasure, did not my daughter inform you that he had grossly affronted us.

I HAD some imperfect account of it, answered lady MARY with a careless air, but did not understand that it was necessary I should espouse your quarrels, or rather that miss's,—what is her name at the castle with her old father, for it was
her

her if I do not mistake, that the captain affronted.

INSULTED, you mean, said lady HAMPTON, most cruelly insulted, but I dare believe he will be very glad to retract, when your cousin BROMLEY returns, I am sure he will call him to an account for it.

INDEED, said lady MARY affecting surprize, and is lord BROMLEY that girl's champion, it is a pity he has not a more honorable opportunity of exercising his prowess.

You displease me excessively, lady MARY, replied lady HAMPTON gravely, she is a most deserving girl, and it is not the least honorable action of BROMLEY's life, that he ventured so far for her deliverance.

BLESS me, madam, said lady MARY, you cannot be seriously offended, I protest I was but rallying, I beg that I may not make so ill a return for the favors your ladyship has conferred on me, as to give you uneasiness upon such a miss
PARNEL'S

PARNEL's account; we will if you please talk no more of her.

No, no more of captain FARRELL in my presence, returned lady HAMPTON, unless you mean to disoblige me.

I THINK your ladyship makes rather hard terms, returned lady MARY, but they shall be complied with: so saying, she hastily arose, and wishing her aunt and cousin a bon repos, hurried to her apartment; where STRAIGHT was ready to attend her.

STRAIGHT, said her ladyship flinging herself into an easy chair, I am so delighted, so mortified, so vexed, and so pleased, as some poet has it, that I know not how to contain myself.

BLESS me, says STRAIGHT, your ladyship is vastly hurried! Flurried said lady MARY, I am perfectly frantic: would you believe it, I have danced this very evening with that charming fellow FARRELL and have left him dying for me.

I AM

I AM so glad, says STRAIGHT, rubbing and looking at her hands alternately, I am so glad,—your ladyship cannot think how glad I am.

You must advise me, you must assist me, resumed lady MARY, starting from a profound reverie, my aunt will not suffer me to see him again, but if he is but a man of gallantry you know he will make it his business to see me, and how can I help that: I had just time to tell him where I am, for my pouting cousin would not let him wait upon me home, and he whispered he knew the bowling green well, he had a meaning in that intimation, which you must make it your business to find out.

WELL, I declare to your ladyship, says Mrs. STRAIGHT, when I am with a lady that has not sufficient spirit for an amour I am out of my element; your ladyship may rely upon my abilities, for my lady FLORIDINE whom I had the honor to *serve* last, had three upon her hands in the course of six months, and as to my inclination—all I say is, let my actions speak.

GOOD

GOOD STRAIGHT you shall find your account in all this, said lady MARY, you shall never go to place again, I will consider you and settle you agreeably, you must spend the day at the green to-morrow.

MRS. STRAIGHT acquiescing, her lady soon discharged her.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIV.

Contains some necessary information, with respect to two persons concerned in a horrid plot. A very delicate scene at the bowling-green, a piece of female artifice; with the execution of the plot abovementioned.

CAPTAIN FARRELL had procured the command of a small sloop for his very great friend and echo lieutenant PORTLAND, which having been damaged in a storm was repairing at *Liverpool*; so that they had the pleasure of spending some time together; and as Mr. PORTLAND was in *Chester* at that juncture the captain made him acquainted with his meeting with lady MARY at the assembly, and likewise with the design he had formed upon her person and fortune.

MR. PORTLAND who was of a grasping provident disposition extolled the captain's resolution, exhorted him to persevere, and prophesied success; but what should be their first step required deliberation, captain FARRELL said it occurred

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red to him to send SPRUCE to the bowling-green with orders to insinuate himself, if possible, in her woman's favor, as a certain channel for intelligence; the lieutenant closing with the proposal, SPRUCE received instructions and was instantly dispatched.

MR. SPRUCE was by no means averse to this expedition on any account, he had a taste for intrigue and was not a little mercenary, consequently as this affair flattered both those passions, he entered upon it with the utmost alacrity.

MRS. STRAIGHT after dinner with her friends, and finding no advances made on their part, fairly communicated all she knew, only prudently enjoining secrecy as her bread was dependant, and having naturally a satyrical vein, could not forbear indulging it at the expence of her lady.

WELL, there was no accounting for vanity, when such a lump of deformity was capable of it, such a dowdy complexion, grizzly hair, pig eyes, ill looking and ill smelling teeth, distorting back, long ungain arms, and legs like a pair
of

of kitchen tongs, did she never come near before in her life; surely it was a miserable thing to be compelled to flatter such a creature, and when the bait took and she was rewarded with caresses and fair promises; she was ready to die; but there was no avoiding it.

MR. BLOSSOM was called out in the middle of this conversation, a gentleman wanting to speak with him, but soon returned ushering in the gay irresistible Mr. SPRUCE. My dear this is Mr. SPRUCE presenting him to his wife, my old friend when I lived at lord PLAINUM'S; he begs your acquaintance, Mrs. STRAIGHT, my friend Mr. SPRUCE. Mrs. STRAIGHT bridled, was saluted and they all took their seats.

MR. SPRUCE unbuttoned his coat, puffed and complained of heat, adjusted a fine broach at his shirt bosom, took out his snuff box, and with an air at once soft and genteel, presented it to the ladies.

THE best *Strafburg* they had ever tasted. Where do you buy it? Mr. SPRUCE, said

said Mrs. BLOSSOM, it is the finest scented I ever met with.

THE place was mentioned. Well, said Mrs. STRAIGHT, how I abhor being biggoted to one shop, unless the commodity is actually better than one can purchase elsewhere; but, in short amongst persons of fashion the name is every thing; now I am persuaded that lady MARY BROMLEY would not change Mr. PIGTAIL upon any consideration, and yet I'd lay a good wager that his snuff is infinitely inferior to this.

LADY MARY BROMLEY, repeated Mr. SPRUCE, gad so, but I am in luck to-day, pray may I be so free as to ask what connexion you have with that lady, it is of importance.

Mrs. STRAIGHT replied with a rather indelicate laugh, you know the terms. Her woman in public, her every thing in private, but I speak before friends, added she, affecting a pretty confusion, that are incapable of betraying me; Mr. SPRUCE made several agreeable protestations, and then told her, that she was the very person he was in quest of, both on his master's

ter's account and his own, adding with a bewitching smile through his half closed teeth, that she could not be surprized that the fame of her charms had reached him.

HER reply, with the ensuing part of the conversation was too brilliant to be inserted; but in the conclusion, Mrs. STRAIGHT was desperately smitten with Mr. SPRUCE and engaged to do justice to his master's flame for her lady, and if possible, to prevail on her to receive a letter. Mr. SPRUCE was to wait her lady's determination at the green, as he said he durst on no account, presume to appear before his master without the information he required.

LADY MARY was in such a complying humor, at Mrs. STRAIGHT's return, that she not only consented to receive a letter from captain FARRELL, but insinuated that she should not be offended if he was to solicit an interview; she reconciled herself to these advances, as it was not love but revenge that she was aiming at, and she was determined to explain herself so soon as she had effected her purpose, imagining as captain FAR-

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REL had shewn the coward upon several former occasions, a few big words with respect to her cousin BROMLEY, would deter him to relinquish her.

MATTERS went on so swimmingly, that before the expiration of a week, she had three interviews in lady HAMPTON's park with her enraptured swain, who for that purpose resided entirely at the bowling green *incog*. She informed him of her antipathy to miss PARNEL, and he engaged to remove her.

It was necessary, from the plan they had concerted, that lady MARY should alter her behavior to miss PARNEL, to whom she became as suddenly attached, as she had at first suddenly disliked her: she even condescended to beg she would forgive and forget all that was past, and permit her to atone by her future conduct for her unmerited ill-treatment.

MISS PARNEL's complaisance obliged her to make suitable returns to these kind overtures, but her heart was far from approving lady MARY's conduct,—such unsteadiness—to be offended without a cause, and attached without a reason,—
how

how unamiable!—she had no notion of it.

LADY MARY artfully talked of returning to *London*,—her aunt intended no opposition to her inclination, as she was greatly dissatisfied with her behavior; for she had too much discernment not to be sensible that her kindness for miss PARNEL was entirely dissembled, though for what purpose she was incapable of judging, and heartily despised her for it.

WHEN lady MARY's plot was ripe for execution, she affected to be uncommonly lively and volatile; begged her aunt would indulge her with one excursion previous to her quitting the country, a request in appearance of so trifling a nature, that there could not be the least objection made to it.

GOODNESS of heart is no less liable to deception than simplicity. How the undesigned can be suspicious, or the suspicious undesigned, is left to the solution of the curious reader.

LADY HAMPTON told her niece that if she would chuse her place of rendez-

vous, she might depend upon her attendance.

LADY MARY paused, as if at a loss where to fix on, notwithstanding, with the bright captain FARRELL's assistance, she had concerted her measures long before, and was only apprehensive lest her scheme should be unsuccessful.

As I am unacquainted, madam, said she, with this part of the world, I cannot properly be said to have any choice,—but *Liverpool* is your gayest town, I believe, and therefore with your approbation, we will go there, it will divert us all, and miss PARNEL shall——

WITH all my heart, replied lady HAMPTON interrupting her, I have long wished to make a tour of that sort, but wanted an agreeable party, miss PARNEL; FANNY, you hear our determination, we shall therefore expect you to be prepared.

MISS PARNEL would have excused herself, but lady MARY declared in the name of the whole company, that there could

could be no pleasure without her; consequently she was under a necessity of complying.

As but little preparation was requisite upon the occasion, they set forth the second ensuing morning, to their election of their frolic, and not chusing to cross the ferries, made a round of it through *Warrington*, and did not arrive at *Liverpool* until five o'clock the next afternoon.

WHEN they had refreshed themselves about an hour, lady MARY began to be dissatisfied with the house. I hope, my dear madam, said she, we are not come here to confine ourselves, it is an extremely fine day, and a walk could not possibly be disagreeable to any of us, for my part I must own it would be highly the reverse to me.

LADY HAMPTON rallied her niece upon her rambling inclination; but nevertheless consented to accompany her down to the quays, in order to view the docks and shipping.

MISS HAMPTON had for some time observed three ill-looking fellows to lurk

about the door, and hold frequent conversations together, and she was a good deal surprized to find that they followed them at a distance wherever they went, and seemed to cabal and look towards miss PARNEL in a particular manner.

BUT as it was no unusual thing for that young lady to be admired by people of every rank, and it was very early in the evening, she thought it was quite idle to entertain the least apprehension, or alarm her friends, with mere bugbears of her imagination.

FATAL mistake, from what slight foundations do the greatest evils arise!

THE fellows soon disappeared when they reached the water side, and miss HAMPTON thought no more of them.

LADY MARY would lean in a friendly indolent manner upon miss PARNEL's arm, her conversation abounded in lively strokes; she insensibly drew her companion to the edge of a dock bank, at a considerable distance from the other ladies, who were entertained at that juncture by the playing off of a water engine, when

when suddenly giving a signal with her handkerchief, the very fellows that had alarmed miss HAMPTON, started up in a little sloop that lay at the extremity of the bank, and was in great measure concealed by it as it was then low water, who seizing the poor, unhappy, defenceless miss PARNEL, clapped her below deck in an instant.

HER surprize deprived her of all power of voice, her weakness of making the least resistance. And lady MARY had the satisfaction to see her safely lodged with less difficulty and hazard, than she had apprehended. The journey, the walk to the quay, with every succeeding consequence, though in appearance merely accidental, were the effect of premeditation and deep laid villainy.

THE lady and her accomplice had spared no expence upon the occasion, every person who was employed or likely to be employed upon the destined spot, were either treated or amused from their business, otherwise this daring enterprize would in all probability have failed in the execution. When the hands

of injustice are enlarged by fortune, what is there on earth that they cannot grasp?

LADY MARY immediately rejoined her aunt and cousin with the utmost unconcern and composure, and on their enquiring for miss PARNEL, she told them, that finding it rather cold she had returned to their lodgings, begging her to make her excuse.

LADY HAMPTON, far from suspecting the true cause, was satisfied with her niece's account, but having walked about half an hour longer, she said it was not kind to let miss PARNEL remain alone in a strange place, and insisted upon their deferring their farther observations until she should accompany them.

BUT how was this good lady and her daughter shocked and afflicted, on finding that she had never returned, they suspected lady MARY was, at least, privy to whatever had befallen her, yet knew not how to accuse her,—blamed themselves for their want of care and caution, and in a word, determined to continue no longer at *Liverpool*, than the next morning.

C H A P.

C H A P. XV.

Contains an account of miss PARNEL's distress and adventures,—her father's behavior upon the trying occasion of losing her.—Captain FARRELL's big hopes—with an instance of right honorable assurance and ingratitude.

MISS PARNEL had no resource but in her tears, which she shed in great abundance. The fellows were tolerably humane, and promised to treat her well, provided she would be satisfied with her confinement until the evening, when they should fall down with the tide, and would soon convey her to the place they were appointed.

SHE entreated them to tell her by whose orders, and for what purpose she was so cruelly trappann'd; but they refused the latter, and in compliance with the former, told her they should soon reach the *Isle of Man*.

No language can paint the distraction of her mind at this event. The more she

reflected, the more she was perplexed: she was well assured that lady MARY was concerned in, if not the abettor of, this plot; but she had no suspicion of captain FARRELL, as she had never heard his name mentioned since the mortifying rencounter with him: she wept her father's misery, prayed for deliverance, and at last resigned herself to despair.

DURING these agitations, the fellows, being joined by one more, began to prepare for their departure; they were so unfeeling to her woes, and unaffected by her tears, that they sung a string of noisy catches, weighed the anchor, and stood out to sea.

MISS PARNEL was soon sensible to the change of fresh for salt water, and her apprehensions and sickness succeeded each other with such violence, that they were glad to convey her upon deck to preserve her life.

THE wind happening to be fair for them, and pretty high, they were tossed and hurried at a violent rate, until three o'clock in the morning, when, endeavoring to make the harbor of *Man*, they were

were stopped by a French privateer, who, sheltering by the rocks and concealed by the darkness, lurked there for the very purpose of surprising smugglers, small traders, &c.

THEY were instantly boarded, but with no other design, than to rifle them of what was valuable; their chief booty was the miserable, distressed, afflicted, miss PARNEL, who was rather revived than depressed by the incident.

SHE besought the captain in his own language to be merciful, told him, that she had been stolen from her friends and native country, by those fellows for some base purpose, and that her father would well reward him for his protection of her.

THE captain who proved to be a good-natured man, listened to her with compassion, and kindly told her, she had nothing further to fear. And, threatening the fellows with the torture, if they did not discover their vile employer, brought them to ample confession.

MISS PARNEL shuddered at the evils she was so near being involved in, for she knew too much of captain FARRELL's nature, to flatter herself with the expectation of lenity.

THE French captain, notwithstanding the addition of four hands would have been acceptable, declared that he should not think himself safe with such villains on board, and therefore if miss PARNEL would write to acquaint her father with her situation, they should convey it.

MISS PARNEL gladly embraced this offer, but was too weak to accomplish more than three lines, which the captain finishing, delivered to the fellows, but they were not permitted to reach home with them, for a storm overtaking them in their return, they were lost upon the *Hoyle* sands; so met with an early reward for their villainy.

LADY HAMPTON was distressed to a great degree, in what manner to break the affair to Mr. PARNEL, she looked upon herself as a kind of accessory to his loss of his daughter. She was under her
care,

care, she ought to have been more watchful.—But all these were unavailing reflexions.

MISS HAMPTON was so affected with miss PARNEL's loss, that she entreated her mamma to quit the country, in which request lady HAMPTON gladly obliged her; she wrote to Mr. PARNEL in the most pathetic terms, condoling with him on his misfortunes, and recommending his reliance on heaven for her protection; she added, that she should remove herself from his sight for ever, unless she could be so happy, as by restoring his child to make him reparation, protesting that she had brought a calamity on her own head which she should ever deplore.

MR. PARNEL returned her ladyship a most polite and sensible answer, after acknowledging he was human, consequently susceptible of suitable affliction to the occasion; he acquitted her ladyship of all blame, begged that she would remember that such events were under the direction or rather correction of an all-wise manager, and that in the end they would be productive of good; that it was from such severe lessons he had acquired

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quired so much philosophy, as to preserve his reason though not his passions from a shock, that he should wait in as patient expectation of a happy turn in his affairs, as the nature of them would admit, and that whatever catastrophe might ensue, he should not be so absorbed by his own affliction as not to lament her share of them; and concluded with wishing her and her daughter that felicity he said he was convinced they merited.

LADY HAMPTON was vastly affected by the mixtures of christianity, human nature and politeness that ran through this letter; her daughter and she shed many sympathizing tears, whilst lady MARY exultingly enjoyed the success of so bold and hazardous an attempt.

LADY MARY, in her conversation with captain FARRELL, had found him ripe for every villainy that would not endanger his person or purse, and therefore had the hardiness to propose the carrying off miss PARNEL, as the test of his affection for her, and promised him in the presence of her woman, to reward him with no less than her person and fortune.

CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN FARRELL pretended to raise difficulties, in order to enhance the merit of the action and conceal his real sentiments; the truth was, that the possession of miss PARNEL was by no means a trivial consideration with him, but cowardice and a bluntness of invention were obstacles to any dangerous undertaking; but to have it not only proposed for him but planned for him, the expence another's, and the reward seventy thousand pounds, exceeded his most flattering expectations.

MR. PORTLAND was the principal agent upon the occasion, the vessel a little wherry that used to convey passengers to and from *Parkgate*, the few fellows PORTLAND could confide in belonging to the sloop he commanded, capable of undertaking any thing either for their commander's emolument or their own advantage.

THE *Isle of Man* was chosen for many reasons, as being most private and daily frequented by smugglers, who for some trifling toleration, would have reconveyed her to any other port more convenient
for

for the captain's visits, the last place that would be suspected on such an occasion, and he complimented himself not a little for fixing upon it.

HE had no doubt of their bearing her safe, as he knew they were desperate and enterprizing, and the passage so extremely short; he flattered himself that she would be little more than arrived before he should have given himself a legal claim to lady MARY's fortune, and be prepared to follow her.

BUT how was he disappointed to find lady MARY fly off, and declare that she was far from intending to change her condition for some time; that she should return to *London* with her aunt, and perhaps write to him so soon as she arrived.

CAPTAIN FARRELL was not incapable of the most violent resentment, when he did not fear his man, and he was sufficiently courageous not to be terrified at petticoats; he therefore raved, cringed, soothed, stormed, and all in a breath; but the invincible lady MARY sustained the shock, unmoved, and calmly told him, that he should know how to treat her

her before she granted him another interview, that he ought to consider he had put himself in her power, and therefore must not be surprized that she was not disposed to marry a villain: so saying, with that assurance peculiar to her rank and fortune, she left him to cool at leisure. The captain was half frantic, but having vented his rage, he began to console himself with the recollection of the prize he had obtained, and resolved in the agitation of his heart, to make miss PARNEL pay for all the disappointments and vexations she had occasioned him.

C H A P. XVI.

Contains some new dangers in which miss PARNEL is involved,—a scene of horror and confusion—which is succeeded by such an event as the reader could have little expected.

MISS PARNEL was so far comforted by this reflexion, that her father would soon be acquainted with her happy deliverance, that she for some time forgot that she was once more a prisoner, but even that recollection was rendered tolerable by the consideration of the different hands she had fallen into than those of barbarians. The captain continuing in his agreeable behavior, contributed not a little to dissipate her apprehensions.

BUT notwithstanding this gentleman was no stranger to the dictates of humanity, he was wont to feel suggestions equally powerful, he was of a sanguine complexion, a lively disposition, and peculiarly formed both by person and inclination

clination for every species of gallantry; it was true he had a wife, by whose means he had made his fortune, and a little family that was intitled to his tenderest care; but it could not hurt them to have a private amour, it was impossible to weep the misfortune we did not know, and he was well assured of absolution at the hands of that holy father, whose immediate province it was to heal his soul.

No wonder from this kind of sophistry, and miss PARNEL's attractions, that he soon began to form designs upon her, which first discovered themselves by a profusion of assiduity, as troublesome as unnecessary.

MISS PARNEL took the alarm, and was near relapsing into her wonted despondence; however, she thought it best rather to flatter his inclination than inflame his resentment, and to appear chearful, grateful, and dependent upon him, so long as he restrained himself within the limits of decorum.

THE French are too well versed in what they term *finesse* to be easily imposed

sed upon. The captain soon perceived miss PARNEL's views, he admired her prompt invention, and was enchanted with the difficulty of the encounter, but as the lover and general equally imagine themselves authorized to counter work art by art, so he determined to proceed.

THE weather proving pretty fine, he indulged himself with conversing whole hours with his fair captive, and would engage her in an evening to a party at picquet; he extolled her judgement in discarding, and the quickness of her imagination, and could he but once prevail upon her to lay aside her fears, he might boast of the most unexceptionable companion upon earth.

MISS PARNEL would upon these occasions reply, that she hoped he was too good not to make allowances for her unconquerable apprehensions of dangers that the element alone exposed her to, and that whenever he could make it convenient to himself, to place her in a nunnery at *Brest*, as he had so kindly promised, he should then have no reason to complain of her behavior.

His

His custom was to rally upon these occasions with the levity of his country. A nunnery was never intended for such beauty as her's, he should commit an offence against nature if he was to consent to it, that she was formed for destruction, that there was no resisting her, and that he as earnestly wished to finish his cruize and return with her to his own country, as she could do; though with a different motive, she wanting to hide herself from, he to expose her to admiration.

FOUR days did he trifle with her in this idle manner, when weary of dissembling so long, he at length began to make honorable tender of his love. Miss PARNEL in conformity to the plan she had at first laid down, avoided giving direct answers to these professions, for according to the song,

*She would not deny, nor would she approve,
And she neither refus'd him nor gave him
her love,*

but it would have been impossible for her to have preserved this equivocal character long; as the gentleman began to grow dissatisfied, and was preparing to give her a specimen of the expectations he had formed,

formed, when he was summoned upon deck in the utmost confusion.

MISS PARNEL was terrified at the violent noise and running that succeeded the captain's departure, and though she rejoiced at the interruption, she was alarmed for the cause; she knew too well that the preparings they were making was on the approach of an English ship, but as the fate of an engagement was uncertain, and the disorder during its continuance so shocking to humanity, she trembled with horror.

THE signal was soon given, and the privateer before she could give one fire received a broadside full upon her, two men were killed upon the spot and three wounded, who were brought down into the cabin, where miss PARNEL was a most miserable spectacle; the surgeon having no mate on board, begged her assistance in holding the bandages, preparing the lint, and such offices as it would have been easy for her to have performed under any other circumstances.

SHE attempted to comply with his request, but her hands refused their offices, and

and she sunk upon the floor, where she was beat and bruised by the violent motion of the ship in a terrible manner. She did not however continue long in that deplorable situation, for the captain receiving a bullet in his head, they instantly struck and were boarded by the English.

THE ship that had given chase to this small privateer, was no other than that very man of war captain JAMES CROSBY was on board, destined for an island in *America*, where the MAJOR's regiment then was.

HE was the first who raised miss PARNEL from the ground, and revived her drooping spirits by assurances of protection and tenderness. He perceived she was English by her dress, and without that impertinent curiosity common with strangers, of whence she came, or whither she was going, congratulated both her and himself on having been the happy instrument of her preservation.

IT was impossible in the condition miss PARNEL then was, to distinguish other than that she was above the common

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mon stamp, and in great affliction; he had her immediately conveyed on board the man of war, and as the privateer was so much damaged in the engagement to be incapable of future service, was sunk immediately.

MISS PARNEL was no sooner informed that she was in her way to the island of ***** that she felt some sensations, which, though a little troublesome, were by no means displeasing: she knew MAJOR BROMLEY was there, and had no doubt but she should find him as well affected to her interest as ever, — perhaps be at a greater certainty with respect to his sentiments of her; which would be worth as much longer voyage than that she was about to take.

BUT possibly it might not be necessary for her to perform the whole voyage, if they touched at any port in their way she might procure a passage to *England*; it was a duty she owed herself, her father and reputation. Had not the base author of her afflictions insinuated things to her disadvantage with respect to the MAJOR, and would it not appear strange to cast herself officiously in his way?

IN the midst of these reflexions, captain JAMES sent to know if he might be permitted to attend her with a message from his captain, she instantly admitted him. After he had made her a few compliments upon the different appearance she then made, to the misery he had found her in, he told her he had acquainted the captain with her circumstances, at least, so far as he had presumed to guess at them. That he was so indisposed as to be unable to leave his cabin, or he would have waited upon her himself, in order to reconcile her to the necessity there was of conveying her so far from her country and friends, as to the place of their destination; but that his orders were so particular with respect to expedition, that he was not to put into one harbor during their passage, and had he not received intelligence of that privateer being a great annoyance, he should not have chased her; that he would ensure her the earliest passage from the island that was suitable to the delicacy of her sex, and that by a chearful acquiescence in her fate, she would in a great measure defeat the severity of it.

HAD not the tie of nature been strong in her heart, she would have yielded to the present necessity, not only chearfully but with the highest satisfaction; but as she was divided between her love for her father and her gratitude to the MAJOR, she felt a kind of uneasy conflict. She however returned proper compliments to the captain, and as she must believe him a man of honor, she submitted herself entirely to his disposal and protection, and sincerely wished his recovery.

C H A P. XVII.

Contains an incontestable proof of female power. — Beauty and modesty how irresistible, — no heart secure from their attacks. — An instance of generous friendship. — An agreeable piece of news for miss PARNEL, — with the alarming approach of new calamities.

CAPTAIN JAMES was extremely assiduous to recommend himself to miss PARNEL's favor : he put her into entire possession of his cabin, only requesting the indulgence of visiting her now and then, in order to divert her with a little chearful chat.

THIS young gentleman was conscious that miss PARNEL had inspired him with very different sensations than he had ever been accustomed to feel, except the momentary ones inspired by miss HAMPTON; but from what source they derived, he was at a loss to determine.

HE thought of her with pleasure, unallayed by all that uneasiness he had seen his brother feel for miss CLIFFEN. He was interested in her happiness without any selfish views; for he was convinced, that should she tell him she was married, it would be neither a shock or mortification to him. She was extremely like miss CLIFFEN in her person; but her behavior was more *dégagée*, from her having evidently seen more of the world than that lady.

IN a few days miss PARNEL became settled and more at ease; she offered to admit captain JAMES to her tea-table, both morning and afternoon, as the smallest return for the favors he had conferred upon her.

SHE found he was proud of this mark of her approbation; and an involuntary resolution escaped him, to do his utmost to cultivate and improve it.

HE politely and considerately avoided every subject that might occasion her disagreeable reflexions, or intimate the most distant curiosity on his part, with respect
to

to the knowledge of what she might wish to conceal.

HER behavior was too uniformly modest to suffer him to entertain suspicions of her, which insensibly gave him pain, yet he knew not how to reconcile the situation he found her in, alone and unattended in the cabin where such offices were performed, as were by no means befitting her presence; and her not endeavoring to set her conduct in a decent light, puzzled him beyond measure.

BUT miss PARNEL soon dispelled every rising doubt, by informing him whose protection she was under when she was trappaned, and for what purpose the fellows had declared they had undertaken the daring enterprize, namely rendering her the great captain FARRELL's mistress.

SHE went no farther at that time, but captain JAMES, on retiring to his new birth, and putting all the circumstances together, concluded that this must be the very lady he had heard MAJOR BROMLEY so often mention.

HE was by no means delighted with this discovery, notwithstanding the MAJOR was the man on earth he would most gladly have obliged. But he should lose her conversation for ever! She must not, she could not possibly receive him, when united to that gentleman, with that agreeable unreserve she then did: she would forget the kindness he had shewn her, in her larger gratitude for her great deliverer, and he should be excluded from her friendly consideration.

BEFORE he was convinced it was necessary, he was willing to resign her into the hands of any tender relations or valuable friends, and should only wish to be ranked amongst the number of them; but now that he found she was the object of MAJOR BROMLEY's most affectionate attachment, and that she possessed so large a share of gratitude as must at least endanger a softer inclination, he, as if out of pure perverseness, fancied himself in love.

He then laughed at his own folly, repeated some of his usual defiance of that passion, and except that he wished for the morning

morning with too much earnestness and impatience to be said to be quite composed, he passed a very tolerable night.

MISS PARNEL received him at breakfast with her wonted sweetness, and on perceiving an alteration in his countenance, was apprehensive for his health, and with a kind sollicitude inquired after it.

THE captain was mortified at the honesty of his aspect, and in order to conceal the true cause, complained of a slight indisposition.

MISS PARNEL prescribed several little medicines to him; advising him to take care of himself in the first instance, as many fatal consequences ensued trifling beginnings.

HE promised to adhere to her instructions, and then with an assumed sprightliness, told her he believed he had made a most important discovery for a friend of his; for if he was not mistaken in his conjectures, she was the very lady that MAJOR BROMLEY would have given

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half his fortune for an interview with, before he left *England*.

MISS PARNEL blushed; and her surprise and confusion sufficiently evinced the justness of his suspicions: he began therefore to repeat several of the conversations he had had with the MAJOR concerning her, and thereby communicated a satisfaction to her heart it had never before experienced.

HER eyes sparkled with uncommon lustre, the bloom revived upon her cheek, and her natural vivacity began to display itself.

CAPTAIN JAMES too soon perceived he had been furnishing her with arms against himself, and that the more he indulged this inclination of conversing with her, the less he was master of his own heart, which did not fail to inform him that he loved her above all women.

BUT notwithstanding the sentiments she had inspired him with, he was never once tempted to endeavor to supplant his friend in her affections. The hypocrisy he was capable of practising, being
of

of the volatile inoffensive nature, free from every ungenerous, consequently villainous design.

HE took much pleasure in obliging her, and as it was apparent that no subject was so agreeable to her, as what related to the MAJOR, he generously gave his conversation that turn.

By accustoming himself to this method of amusement, and from the conviction, which he never lost sight of that she could be no other's than that gentleman's, his reluctance to seeing the two persons upon earth he most esteemed (except his brother) happy, sensibly decreased; and at length his reason had so far subdued the narrow sentiments his passion would have suggested, that he, without the least emotion, begged she would promise him that she would bestow her hand upon his friend.

C H A P. XVIII.

Contains a moral lesson for those who are apt to be too sanguine in their expectations.

— No certainty in this our mortal state.

— The MAJOR's humanity productive of unhappy consequences, — DIXON shines upon a new occasion.

CAPTAIN JAMES in assisting miss PARNEL to disembark again, congratulated her on her approaching happiness. How infinitely more welcome, continued he, will our arrival be to the MAJOR, when I shall inform him of the prize I have rescued out of the enemy's hands. I will instantly wait upon him, and prepare him to visit you.

So saying, he committed miss PARNEL to the care of a good woman, and hastened to impart the glad tidings to his friend.

MISS PARNEL endeavored to compose herself; but reflexions crouded upon her imagination involuntarily. — In what manner should she receive him? — how conceal the consciousness captain JAMES's information

information had given her of his favorable sentiments?—how acknowledge that they were returned in an adequate degree, without a breach of that modesty that had hitherto been the rule of her life and actions? — Would he not entertain suspicions of her, if not injurious to her honor, at least to her delicacy, by perhaps imputing her coming to the island, rather to inclination than necessity? — Would not captain JAMES inform him, that he had been the subject of her whole conversation, and by representing her as too fond, create his disgust.

ALAS, how needless all these reflexions! for on captain JAMES's arrival at the MAJOR's apartment, he found him speechless, and in such agonies, as in appearance could only precede his final dissolution.

A MALIGNANT fever had broke out in the island, sweeping off all it attacked; in a very short period, which so terrified the soldiers and inhabitants, that no one was willing to attend those who unhappily labored under that severe calamity, lest their own lives should become a forfeit; in order, as much as possible, to check

the contagion, every person on the first symptoms, were compelled to take up their lodging in the barracks, where they languished under the most deplorable circumstances for want of due care and attendance, which none but the strong and healthful were capable of affording them, and whoever humanely made the attempt, was soon reduced to an equally helpless state with those they meant to assist.

FREQUENT repetitions of this misfortune made such an impression upon the people, that they with one consent determined to abandon all those that were then down; not considering that the pestilential air would communicate what they were so industrious to shun.

THE desperate condition they were reduced to, not only from this distemper but the shortness of provisions had nearly levelled all distinctions: the soldiers became uncontrollable, and all order and regulation was at an end. The opinion that prevailed amongst the lower class, and not a little contributed to their rejection of all discipline, was that they were sacrificed to the neglect, at least, of
their

their country, and they unanimously agreed to disclaim all authority, but such as their affection for their officers, or their own preservation dictated.

THE humane MAJOR had represented to them the injustice and barbarity of their proceedings—but in vain,—there was not one that was willing to expose himself to the hazard his comrade was exempt from. It was then proposed that they should draw lots,—but even the proposition nearly occasioned a mutiny.

MAJOR BROMLEY, bleeding for the distress of his fellow creatures, and lamenting the hard natures of those he had to deal with, at length fixed upon an expedient to reconcile them to their duty.

I WILL myself, said he, accompany the three first volunteers upon this charitable expedition; we will divide our labor without distinction, and the man that acquits himself with the most usefulness and humanity upon the occasion, shall hold the highest place in my esteem.

His brother officers, though they applauded this noble resolution, would gladly

gladly have prevented the execution of it, but it was impossible to dissuade that gentleman from his generous purpose.

I THINK, said he, the step I am about to take, loses its merit when we consider how precarious a tenure we now hold our lives by. Surrounded by a set of savages that are with difficulty restrained from the most horrid outrages, threatened with famine, and but a few removes from a pestilence: it is at best, but meeting the fate we are unable to shun.

DIXON vehemently opposed his master's intention. I beseech your honor, said he, to leave the whole to me, I shall find it no hard task to preserve you from danger, and can perform every necessary office with ease to myself, and safety to you.

WORTHY creature, said the MAJOR, this is indeed an heroic proof of your attachment; but you must be denied, I am not to be diverted from my purpose, and heaven alone knows what may be event. I will not therefore be deprived of the consolation of knowing, that I have one friend to give me the attendance I should stand in need of, if infected, and if necessary,

cessary, close my eyes with the tenderness of a father, nor will I hazard your valuable life upon any other occasion.

OH sir, replied DIXON, holding his master's coat, if you will not consent to my going you will break my heart, I indeed had not the humanity and resolution you are possessed of, but I have done all in my poor power for them, they have had my last shirt to wipe their miserable afflicted dying faces,—but I now despise my small endeavors for their relief, now that your honor has so far exceeded me, and would nurse them. Unaccustomed as you are to foul smells, you would not live one night.

THE MAJOR shook the half distracted honest creature by the hand in the most affectionate manner, and committed him to the custody of some of the men, desiring they would convey him to his apartment, and omit no kind care of him until his return; then having looked after him so long as he was within sight, he turned with great composure to the surrounding company, asking which of them all he should consider as his best friends.

A CONTENTION now arose for the honor of attending him, so superior was ambition to the feelings of humanity, that it even subdued the love of themselves.

IN order to reconcile them to lots for the future, and prevent all disagreement during the twelve hours the MAJOR limited for his attendance, three men were selected by balloting to be his companions, then taking an affectionate leave of his brother officers, he bid adieu to his own concerns, and waving his hat to them, when he approached the wing where the barracks were situated, he entered them chearfully, and the only severe pang he felt upon the occasion, was in his mental farewell to his beloved miss PARNELL.

So far is virtue from meeting with its reward in this transitory state, that the MAJOR was the only one of the four that took the infection: the goodness of his constitution caused the first symptoms to be very violent.

DIXON

DIXON who had experienced unspeakable torture and apprehension, from the moment he was forced from his master, had almost strained himself blind in watching for his return, — but when he perceived the three men after changing their cloaths approach without him, he could no longer support himself, but was found upon the floor in all appearance dead. Their efforts to recover him were not however unsuccessful, but he was no sooner restored to his recollection, than frantic with grief, he flew to the assistance of his ever honored master.

THE MAJOR's conduct had so endeared him to the people, and the circumstance of the three men's returning uninfected in such measure dispelled their fears, that every one became forward to preserve so inestimable a life : and so effectually did they exert themselves, that in a few days the dead were all properly disposed of, the living upon the recovery, the barracks aired, the people revived, and the MAJOR conveyed to his own apartments; he was the last that took the distemper, and the crisis had long
been

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been over before captain JAMES's arrival, but he had unhappily relapsed, and was in as great or greater danger than from the first attack.

CHAP.

C H A P. XIX.

*Contains such an account of the affairs at the island of ***** as it is hoped will be agreeable to the reader.*

CAPTAIN JAMES would not be prevented seeing the MAJOR, and joining his fears with those of the faithful afflicted DIXON, who stood watching over him in minutely expectation of his dissolution.

BUT heaven had not forgotten to be gracious: for (though at first almost imperceptibly) his struggles became less and less violent, and to the heart-felt satisfaction of all around him, he began to breathe with some degree of freedom.

CAPTAIN JAMES observing these favorable symptoms was anxious to return to miss PARNEL, lest as the MAJOR's sufferings were in every body's mouth, she might hear of them with so little preparation, as to be productive of some fatal consequence.

DIXON

DIXON was in raptures. — His master had opened his eyes — gazed at him a moment, then laid his own hand upon his and pressed it with all his feeble strength. Go, sir, said the poor fellow, (for captain JAMES had informed him of miss PARNEL's arrival) go to miss PARNEL, my master will soon recover his reason, and I shall still be happy, I will send to you upon the slightest alteration, but you are sensible if that lady is neglected, we shall but be preparing a worse misfortune for his honor, than even the one he now labors under, for his very soul is wrapped in her.

CAPTAIN JAMES found this advice too agreeable to his own inclination to be rejected, he therefore hastened to miss PARNEL, whose tears soon informed him that some officious person had been beforehand with him in their intelligence.

SHE was surprized to see him look so chearful as by the people's account of the MAJOR's condition, she had concluded that all was over with him.

THE

THE poor folks had no other view in the relation they gave her, than exalting the MAJOR's character, and indulging their own talkativeness, and were astonished that she should be so affected at the calamities of a stranger.

MISS PARNEL's countenance at captain JAMES's report, once more wore an air of doubtful satisfaction, but she had the pleasure in the evening to hear his danger was perfectly at an end, and as she was inclined to flatter herself, that when he was able to receive her visits, they would contribute to his felicity, if not in a great measure accelerate the re-establishment of his health, she looked upon her arrival as a singular work of providence.

THE MAJOR still continued mending, though by slow degrees; and remained too weak, they apprehended, to bear the news of miss PARNEL's being so near, it was therefore preserved a profound secret. He knew captain JAMES, and was apparently rejoiced to see him, but as the ship had been some time expected it did not occasion him the smallest surprize.

DIXON

DIXON, whose nerves were less calculated to sustain joy, than the severest shocks of affliction, was wild with transport at the happy turn his master's distemper had taken, he was prevailed to go to bed, but sleep would not dwell with him, and they were at last obliged to have recourse to an opiate to preserve his reason.

THE MAJOR the third afternoon from miss PARNEL's arrival, faintly pronounced that lady's name, as if he wished to inquire somewhat concerning her.

CAPTAIN JAMES told him he had brought him letters from his aunt, in which that lady was particularly mentioned.

A KIND of momentary lustre overspread the MAJOR's eye at this intelligence. Read them said he, read me all the particulars, JAMES, it will be a cordial to my languid spirits.

CAPTAIN JAMES not prepared for this request, and judging it unsafe to make a full

full discovery was greatly confused, — which the MAJOR perceiving, concluded it was mere matter of invention he had been amusing him with, and he resented it as well as his strength would admit. Why should you attempt to deceive me, said he, — what end can it answer either with respect to you or me, — notwithstanding all I have suffered, is nothing in comparison of her loss, — yet if I am to be deprived of her — I will learn to submit as becomes the character of a man. Having rested some time, he resumed, I have not indulged my eyes with her dear resemblance since my great afflictions, — should heaven reserve her for me, how will the little services I have rendered my fellow creatures be overpaid. — Do good JAMES, reach me her picture.

CAPTAIN JAMES was extremely forward to comply with this request, in order to make his friend amends for that pain, the preparatory deception of the letter to miss PARNEL's introduction had occasioned him.

BUT it had a very different effect to what he expected. The MAJOR sighed on

on receiving it, and having viewed it some time,—no, said he, wiping his face with his handkerchief, it is madness to flatter myself I shall ever see her more, except under such cruel circumstances as will forbid my thinking of her,—such a person cannot fail to excite admiration,—she has but a slight dependence,—is of a condescending gentle nature,—her hand, JAMES, will undoubtedly be another's, whatever share I may have obtained in her heart.—Oh, exclaimed he, raising his voice to the utmost his strength would admit, how afflicting the recollection is to me, that I omitted engaging her for myself before I left *England!*

UPON my honor, said captain JAMES, your fears are groundless, I have not indeed a letter to produce, but there is a person arrived upon the island that knows her well, and has frequently heard her make the most affectionate mention of you,—if you will but compose yourself until you are sufficiently recovered to bear a long conversation upon so interesting a subject, I will introduce him to you.

SWEAR

SWEAR to me, said the MAJOR, by the honor of a man, that you do not now deceive me, and I shall not only be satisfied, but in a great degree happy.

CAPTAIN JAMES gave him such strong assurances that he no longer doubted his veracity, and listened to the account of his aunt's acquaintance with miss PARNEL with the highest delight. He waited two whole days without desiring to see the stranger, for such he supposed the person to be, in which time he made quicker advances towards his recovery, than in all the other preceding periods. And he at length began to beg he might be indulged, but the prudent captain JAMES so earnestly besought him to wait till the expiration of two more days, that he consented on condition he should be no longer trifled with.

THE MAJOR was now able to give some account of the scenes he had been engaged in; he said nothing could be more shocking to humanity than the barracks, the dead and dying mingled together in horrid confusion. That it was

owing to the sloth and negligence of the nurses, that the distemper had raged with such fatal violence, and that he believed he should have escaped the infection if he had exerted himself less, in removing whatever was disagreeable, but as he was convinced that there was no other means of extirpating the evil than by striking at the root, he was determined not to omit it: that should he ever be capable of any future command, it should be a first principle with him to visit the hospital or barracks, at least twice a week, to see that the poor wretches had justice done them: nor would he rely upon any one's report, for why could not an officer use the same precautions, as the physicians and surgeons, who were seldom or ever attacked by an epidemic distemper.

THE manuscript was so blotted at this period, that for many succeeding pages the author's meaning was in great measure obscured, infomuch that our proprietor could barely collect, that the meeting between the MAJOR and miss PARNEL might be much better conceived, than described, — that the French and Indians
agreed

agreed to a cessation of hostilities, and that they enjoyed themselves very comfortable for some time: when a peace taking place, this island that had been won and defended with so much danger and difficulty, was one of the first ceded to the enemy, the news of which (and transports arriving for that purpose) soon conveyed this shattered suffering corps, the worthy MAJOR, the amiable miss PARNEL, captain JAMES, and the faithful DIXON once more to *England*.

THE author's track now becoming visible, our proprietor gladly pursues it, and in the very words of the manuscript adds, that

LADY HAMPTON received them upon their arrival with a tenderness nearly paternal, and dispatched an immediate express to Mr. PARNEL, with the happy news of his daughter's being once more restored to him.

HER ladyship received an answer by the return of the messenger from that gentleman, with proper acknowledgements for the share she took in his felicity,

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and informing her, that he would give himself the pleasure of seeing her in *London*, the earliest moment possible, as he should be impatient to receive his KITTY, but would receive her as usual, on her absence from her home, from her ladyship's own hands.

C H A P.

CHAP. XX.

Contains an extraordinary examination.—

*A discovery of great importance,—with
a farther instance of sir ARTHUR'S un-
feeling nature.*

MR. JAMES CLIFFEN and his niece had enjoyed all the satisfaction they promised themselves in lady HAMPTON and her daughter's company, and on hearing the MAJOR was returned, with miss CLIFFEN in his hand, he hastened to congratulate that gentleman upon his amazing deliverance, and was highly pleased with captain JAMES, and miss PARNEL.

CAPTAIN HENRY still remained at the *Isle of Wight*, and was perfectly ignorant of the merchant's prepossession in his favor, until he received a letter from his brother, requiring his immediate return to town.

MR. CLIFFEN made no secret of his intentions, and was so warmly encouraged

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raged by the MAJOR to think well of captain HENRY, and delighted with his agreeable description both of his mind and person, that he impatiently expected his arrival. Lady HAMPTON begged the meeting might be at her house, as she should take a particular pleasure in observing the natural effects of so extraordinary an interview.

SIR ARTHUR could not refuse so trifling a request of a lady whose relation had so greatly obliged him, notwithstanding he was mortified at the parade, as it threatened his hopes with many obstructions, if not a total disappointment.

CAPTAIN HENRY at length arrived, and the expectations of the whole party were raised to the highest pitch, — miss PARNEL was by no means an uninteresting person, notwithstanding both miss CLIFFEN and captain HENRY CROSBY were entire strangers to her, but love, gratitude, and the natural sensibility of her heart, had taught her to feel for the distresses of others.

THEY

THEY were assembled at lady HAMPTON's the third ensuing afternoon, as captain JAMES assured them his brother would not fail being in town by that period, nor was he mistaken,—the young gentleman was very soon shewn into the apartment, where sir ARTHUR was the only prejudiced person in his disfavor.

CAPTAIN HENRY's countenance was greatly dejected, his voice scarcely articulate, and the pleasure of meeting his brother and friend, was entirely damped by the uncertainty of his fate.

LORD BROMLEY with his usual grace and all the warmth of friendship, presented him to Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN, who started in the utmost surprize and confusion. The MAJOR was the only person who had sufficient presence of mind to enquire into the cause.

I BEG this gentleman's pardon, replied the merchant, endeavoring to recover himself, and shaking captain HENRY kindly by the hand, but he so strikingly resembles a poor beloved deceased

brother of mine, that I own myself greatly discomposed.

SIR ARTHUR muttered loud enough to be heard by miss HAMPTON, so his business is done already, if he does but fancy him like HENRY, he must please of course.

I UNDERSTAND, sir, said the merchant, addressing captain HENRY with visible emotion, you are affectionately attached to my niece, I therefore determined (perhaps very whimsically) to have a little conversation with you, for though it is by no means in my power to promise you success in that respect, if I like the account you give of yourself, I should be glad to be your friend.

I AM much obliged to you for your generous intention, returned captain HENRY in a very low voice, but if I am to lose miss CLIFFEN, I am very indifferent concerning my success in every other particular.

Do not let your despair, young gentleman, said Mr. CLIFFEN in an encouraging

raging accent, prove your enemy. I feel myself greatly prejudiced in your favor, and perhaps things may turn out better than you expect.

I MUST beseech you, sir, returned captain HENRY, not to bestow one thought upon me, — I am sensible I must be wretched, and my presumption in having aspired to miss CLIFFEN's favor, will in the end be amply punished.

WHERE does your family live? — In what county was you born? interrogated the merchant with uncommon earnestness.

I KNOW but little of myself, sir, replied captain HENRY. — Mine is a romantic mysterious story, nor will I attempt to impose myself upon you in a false light. I believe I was born in *Somersetshire*, myself and brother were early placed at school, our board duly remitted, but we were continued when others broke up, and never knew the felicity of returning home.

SIR ARTHUR unmindful of the company's approbation of the young gentleman, his connexion with the MAJOR and every tie both of humanity and politeness exclaimed with great acrimony; a fine vagabond son-in-law I should have had, truly, if this match had taken place.

THE MAJOR was shocked, miss CLIFFEN changed countenance, captain HENRY was disconcerted, and every spectator was in pain for him, but he resumed with a tolerable grace.

FROM school we were removed to the university for one twelvemonth only, — I had then attained my nineteenth year, — a pair of colours were presented me by a stranger (I having been previously consulted, respecting my choice of a profession) and I have had one advancement since, — I am now a lieutenant.

THE bastard of some nobleman, I will be sworn for it, cried sir ARTHUR abruptly.

MAJOR

MAJOR BROMLEY bit his lips, captain JAMES's countenance was in a flame, the ladies were all concerned, and Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN appeared infinitely dissatisfied with his brother's behavior.

HE was indeed greatly mortified at his ill success, for he had entertained hopes, that the young gentleman's connexions would have justified his espousing his interest, and he had determined either to teaze or sooth his brother into compliance ; he therefore said, rubbing his forehead with a distressed disappointed air, it is very strange, sir, that you should have been left so entirely in the dark respecting your origin.

I HAVE but one light in my possession, returned captain HENRY, and I have been often tempted to advertise it, it is my father's picture—of very inconsiderable value in its self; but so remarkable, that I do not despair of it some time or other, leading me to a fortunate discovery.

HAVE it you about you? demanded the merchant eagerly.

YES sir, replied captain HENRY, I never part from it; an elderly person who was accustomed to call upon us sometimes, and by whose means we derived our support, brought it me the day I was eighteen, and told me that was all the treasure my father had left me; but that he had valued the miniature for the sake of a dear friend who drew it, and he doubted not but I should hold it in some estimation, from the dictates of filial tenderness alone.

O HEAVENS! cried the merchant, if that friend should be myself. Favor me, sir, I intreat you with an immediate sight of it.

SIR ARTHUR sneered when the captain presented it; Mr. JAMES took it hastily into his trembling hand; and, casting his eye upon it, let it fall to the ground, exclaiming, oh my heart, thou didst not experience such uncommon perturbations from a common cause, MAJOR BROMLEY,

LEY, HENRY CLIFFEN, support me. — The services I offered you, were merely my due, thou dear remains of my much loved brother.

You astonish me, sir, said captain HENRY, what can you mean?

You are my nephew, returned the merchant, straining him in his arms, my favorite brother's son. — Can you sir ARTHUR be unaffected?

MISS CLIFFEN begged miss PARNEL would withdraw with her, as she found herself unable to support this interesting scene.

I AM as much surprized, as you can be, returned sir ARTHUR with an unfavorable brow, but methinks we want farther confirmation.

BE you incredulous, said Mr. JAMES, his eyes sparkling with delight, — let me be happy, oh my boy, cried he, addressing his nephew, what a happy circumstance it is for us both, that I had some little taste for drawing. I presented that picture

ture to your father one new-year's day, as the strongest effort of my art, and he promised to preserve it to his latest existence, — he indeed sent thee a treasure, literally speaking, when he sent thee that — for I have a fortune that will intitle you to sollicit your cousin's hand, whose heart is your's already, — lady HAMPTON, miss, gentlemen, continued he, why do you not congratulate me?

THIS is my brother, sir, said captain HENRY, taking captain JAMES's hand, oh let him share your affection, as I see he now does my felicity.

ANOTHER nephew, and my namefake too, said Mr. JAMES, his heart overflowing with pleasure; then I am rich indeed!

BUT brother, said sir ARTHUR rather surlily, when you promise these new found relations so ample a provision, do not you forget a certain deed you signed some few weeks ago, in favor of my daughter.

How can you be so ungenerous and unfeeling, said Mr. JAMES, as to mention it? — I look upon it that is now of no force,

force, as this day's discovery has proved, I had no right to bestow so many thousands upon one relation.

WE shall try the validity of it, though, returned sir ARTHUR with a malicious grin, my family is not to suffer for your whims. Where is the girl? cried he, looking round, I shall now take her under my care, for if I am not mistaken, your young sparks will find you full employment, so saying, he hastily arose, and ordering his coach to the door, forced miss CLIFFEN into it, notwithstanding the intreaties of the whole company, and drove off with her to her unspeakable affliction. — He thought there was now no longer necessity for continuing the mask, as where there was nothing to lose, there was nothing to fear.

THE merchant lamented his brother's unhappy avaritious disposition, begged his nephews to be comforted, — promising to do every thing in his power for them.

MISS PARNEL was greatly concerned upon miss CLIFFEN's account, nor could
lord

lord BROMLEY's rhetoric entirely compose her.

LADY HAMPTON declared herself both shocked and disgusted at the baronet's behavior, — so brutal, — so selfish, — she had hoped there were no such characters in life.

THE merchant insisted upon both his nephews going home with him, and begged lady HAMPTON would excuse his supping with her, as his mind was in a very uneasy state, but promised to visit her again very soon, made the MAJOR a handsome compliment for the kindness he had shewn his relations, and said he was proud that JAMES had distinguished himself in miss PARNEL's protection. Lady HAMPTON was unwilling to part with them, but the merchant was so earnest to be gone, she was obliged to consent.

MR. JAMES CLIFFEN read his nephew, now sir HENRY, a most instructive lecture, upon patience and providence, conjuring him by the past, not to despair

despair of the future, flattering both him and himself that all would yet be well.

AN apartment was ordered to be prepared for them, and they now for the first time enjoyed the felicity of an almost paternal roof.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXI.

Contains the concluding scene, which is by no means barren of events. — The proprietor takes his leave, — with a stroke of morality that winds up the whole affair, that it is supposed the author was at some pains in moulding to his purpose.

IN consideration of sir HENRY's fatiguing journey they retired early to their apartments.

THE merchant however found himself but little disposed to sleep; his mortification respecting the fatal deed he had so voluntarily executed, being quite as much as he could bear.

ANXIETY and a doubtful kind of hope preyed upon sir HENRY's mind, — a variety of pleasing and unpleasing incidents upon captain JAMES's, until the watch had gone one o'clock, when they were alarmed with a violent knocking at the door.

THE

THE merchant arose in order to learn the cause of such confusion and disturbance, when he was surprised to see JACOB and his brother JOE (mentioned in the beginning of this history) ascending the stairs with great noise and precipitation.

O YOUR honor, cried JACOB, we are all undone, — my young lady is in fits, and sir ARTHUR has, lord have mercy upon us, sir, but my master has shot himself.

THE merchant hurried into his apartment; and, throwing himself upon the bed, was with difficulty kept from fainting.

It seems that wretched gentleman on his return home, having tormented his daughter for some time, finding his own thoughts very troublesome to him, had recourse to his usual remedy, a brandy bottle in order to dispel them. He had heated his brain to a violent degree, when JOE unexpectedly made his appearance, having rid post with a letter for him from his steward. Sir ARTHUR broke the
seal

seal with great impatience, and read to his utter confusion, that his fine seat in *Warwickshire* was burnt down,—but by the industry of his tenants and servants, his plate, cash, and papers had escaped the flames. That they were all lodged in the vicar's hands, who had publicly reported a codicil most undoubtedly annexed to sir CHRISTOPHER's will at his decease, revoking all he had done to the disadvantage of his son HENRY, provided either he or any of his issue survived him,—that it was his intention to advertise for sir HENRY, and set forth his reasons at large in the public papers.

SIR ARTHUR was outrageous upon the occasion, cursed his own folly in not destroying the fatal paper, and going hastily into his closet, dispatched himself without farther deliberation.

WHEN the merchant had in some measure recovered himself, he advised his nephews to take a carriage and immediately convey their cousin from that scene of horror, if it was possible for her to be moved, which they accordingly performed,

ed, notwithstanding the night was so far advanced.

MR. JAMES CLIFFEN put himself early the next morning into a hackney-coach, ordering the man to drive to lady HAMPTON'S.

HER ladyship was greatly shocked to hear of sir ARTHUR'S miserable fate, but said every thing her good sense and religion could dictate to reconcile him to it.

WHEN the merchant became a little composed, I am sorry sir, said her ladyship, that your heart is no better disposed for an agreeable surprize, than I am sensible it must be at present, for this lady continued she, taking miss PARNEL'S hand, and presenting her to the merchant, has likewise a tender claim to your affections, but in order to unravel the mystery, I have another stranger in store who cannot only account for every circumstance relating to her, but likewise her brothers, your newly discovered nephews lives.

THE fatigue and disappointments miss PARNEL had endured, had in great measure deprived her of her resemblance of miss CLIFFEN, so that Mr. JAMES was quite at a loss for her ladyship's meaning, until the appellations of brothers escaped her.

THE merchant had just saluted his niece when Mr. PARNEL made his appearance, and addressing Mr. JAMES CLIFFEN, said, I am very glad sir, it is in my power to procure so worthy a protector, for that well meriting child and her brothers, as I am now sensible you will now prove to them, and had I been acquainted with your disposition and abilities to serve them, I would have disclosed the secret of their birth many years ago, but I am far from apprehending either the one or the other.

My name, sir, continued he, as they resumed their seats, is ROBINSON, it was my misfortune to be educated with the flattering expectations of a handsome fortune, but my poor mistaken uncle thought proper to change his mind; and,
turning

turning me adrift with five hundred pounds in my pocket, bestowed both his person and fortune upon a very worthless young woman. I suppose I need not tell you that it was my sister your brother married, for you undoubtedly remember that particular, and that it was I that was their only confidant and assistant in the execution of their scheme of retiring from the knowledge of all their friends. His affection for his wife was not in the least diminished, by the misfortune his union with her was productive of, but in a little village in *Somersetshire*, confining their wishes within the narrow limits of their slender income, they enjoyed a felicity, affluence is frequently a stranger to. Soon after their happy establishment, my disappointments began to give me a distaste to every connexion but that of true friendship; a young person I had long loved, and I intended should have participated my ample (voluntarily offered to share my contracted) fortune, according to the example of your brother; we assumed another name, that nothing might occur to our remembrance in the happy intercourse we had with each other to cause us chagrin or mortification.

I had

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I had from my childhood had an inclination for that particular branch of study that constitutes an engineer, I applied myself very close to it, now in my day of adversity, as my only dependance or means of relief, and had no reason to complain of my success. When we had passed four years in the most rational happiness, my sister was unfortunately taken off, she had brought your brother these three children, and that good girl (whose connexion with me in the false character of my daughter, has brought into so many dangers and difficulty) was barely then four months old.

YOUR brother sent immediately for me, and intreated I would take his little KITTY under my care, and would insist upon lodging five hundred pounds in my hands for her use, even from her infancy.

I AM sensible, said he, of my incapacity to educate a female; the most tender father cannot supply the material character to an infant of her sex, I know your wife's disposition so well that KITTY's innocent engaging actions will fix
her

her affection, and both my child and I shall be happy in such a friend. My boys, continued he, will find me sufficient employment; but I conjure you, as you value mine or my family's peace, never to betray the particulars of my connexions to any of them, as such a discovery could only be productive of the unhappy consequence, of rendering them dissatisfied with their humble lot, nor ever reveal to her that she is not related to you by the tenderest tie.

I complied most willingly with this request, and had the infant immediately conveyed to my wife, who gladly received her, and as we have never had any children of our own, the affection, her innocence, tenderness, and impartial obedience inspired us with, was little inferior to the feelings of nature.

Our brother was not so happy as to live to see the success of his scheme, for walking out late one evening by the side of a river he caught a quinsy which carried him off in a few days, within the twelvemonth from my sister's departure. The boys were then of an age to be

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placed at a little school, where they continued until I made interest to fix them upon the foundation at *Eton*; I had the satisfaction to hear frequently of their promising abilities, by means of a gentleman who used to convey them such small remittances as I was able to make them, but as I was not at liberty according to the solemn promise my brother extorted from me to inform them from whence they were derived; I declined inviting them to spend any time with me, lest their sister should engage their approbation in such a manner as to render an explanation inevitable. I own I sent HENRY his father's picture, which I found in his bureau after his decease as a stimulative, and was not without hopes, that two sanguine young fellows would make such advantage of that single circumstance, at one time or other of their lives as I secretly wished they might, and the event has justified my expectation.

THEIR further conversation with the mutual congratulations of the company were so blotted in the manuscript, that our proprietor was unable to give them

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in the author's own words, and therefore would not introduce by any means.

THE author in some succeeding pages takes an opportunity of moralizing upon the vicissitudes of life, and says pretty judiciously (though rather tritely) that as both rough and smooth incidents are the inevitable portion of mortality, that we ought not either to be too much depressed by the one or elated by the other, as it is impossible for us to judge what the next hour may produce.

HIS meaning became a third time very obscure, inasmuch that all our proprietor could collect, was an account of the whole groupe in the following manner:

THAT lord BROMLEY and miss KITTY CLIFFEN (formerly miss PARNEL) were happily united, as likewise sir HENRY CLIFFEN and his cousin.

THAT captain JAMES, shocked at the consequences his idle vivacity might but too probably have produced, as he would really have married his aunt, rather than

not have served his brother, became so reformed in his conduct and sentiments, that lady HAMPTON gladly bestowed her daughter upon him, and that her ladyship and the merchant found their felicity in that of their children.

THAT the worthy DIXON and Mrs. DOLLY, notwithstanding the disparity of their ages, agreed to make a match of it, and were nobly provided for by their good friends, lord BROMLEY and miss CLIFFEN.

THAT JOE succeeded DIXON in lord BROMLEY's service, as he had proved himself in many instances to have a valuable heart, and that gentleman was by no means unwilling to trust to time for wearing off his rusticity, and improving his knowledge, and that JACOB was fixed with sir HENRY.

THAT Mr. and Mrs. PETERSON continued in the same wrangling strain, nor was there the least prospect of a favorable change in their dispositions.

THAT sir ARTHUR's body was deposited in the family vault in *Warwickshire*, where

where his memory was despised by all that knew him:

THAT captain FARRELL prevailed upon Mrs. STRAIGHT to bear witness against her lady with respect to her promise of marriage, — that lady MARY stood the litigation and was cast, — that she was frantic with disappointment and vexation, — when, lo! a decent gentlewoman appeared (the noise of this affair having reached her) and by proving her prior claim to the noble captain, delivered her ladyship's person and fortune from his ruffian paws, and deprived Mrs. STRAIGHT not only of her promised reward, but her intended husband, the gay Mr. SPRUCE, — and that her ladyship was so harrassed by her law-suit, and the violence of her passions, that she gave evident proofs of insanity, which entirely put it out of her power to dispose of her fortune, which the MAJOR became intitled to by her death some few years after.

THE author then concludes with this moral, which he puts in the merchant's mouth on his observing the happiness of his family.

I EXHORT

I EXHORT you, my friends and children, to persevere in the same track to the end of your existence, you have hitherto pursued, for notwithstanding we do not always obtain our wishes by a proper conduct, the consciousness of well doing and well meriting, can extract the sting from our disappointments, and enhance the value of our greatest enjoyments.

F I N I S.



